

WESTY

History of West Wallsend



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Author: Dr Michael Williams
Editor: Sherrie-Lee Evans
Object Photographer: Deborah Waddell

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“As always, any errors are the writers own.”
Dr Michael Williams — Ditto Council

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WEST WALLSEND COLLIERY

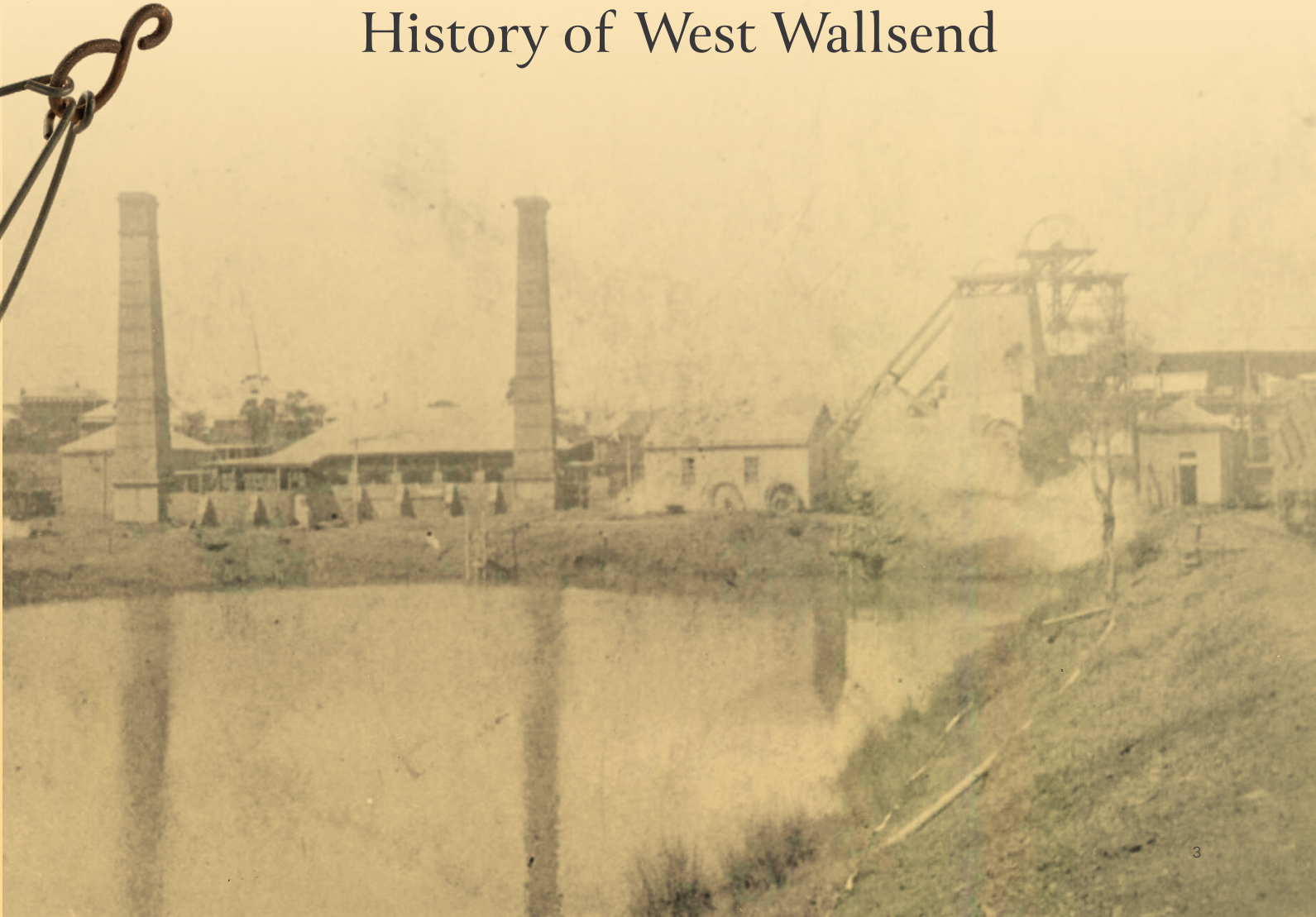
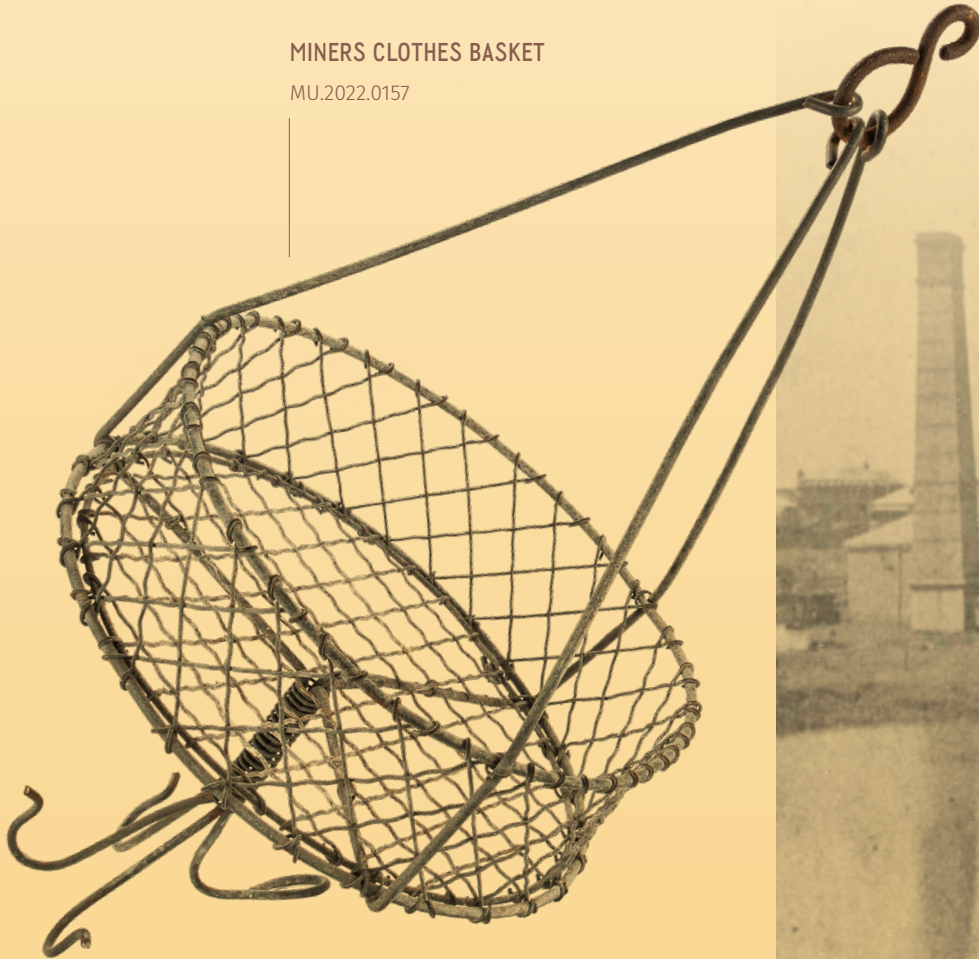
Work on establishing the West Wallsend Colliery began in 1887, with the first coal being transported in May 1888.It was started by a group of individuals who formed the West Wallsend Coal Company. Land sales around the area flourished, with the first subdivision of 200 allotments going on sale July 1887.

WESTY

History of West Wallsend

MINERS CLOTHES BASKET

MU.2022.0157



Chronology — post contact

PRE-COLLIERY

1798	Awaba (Lake Macquarie) first entered by European ship 1829 Grant of 2,500 acres to Captain James Ranclaud at Teralba 1861 Small selections made in West Wallsend area
1860-1884	Scattered small farms & orchards
1885	West Wallsend Mining Company purchases land

MINING PERIOD

1888	Mining Company subdivision and land sales
1889	Public school opened
1891	West Wallsend Co-operative founded
1894	Floods destroy orchards of Joseph Holmes
1895	School of Arts established
1901	West Wallsend connected to water supply
1904	Catholic Church built
1910	Tram line opened
1923	West Wallsend colliery closes
1929	Mine lockout
1930s	The Great Depression – ‘West Worldsend’
1930	Steam tram closed
1945	Closure of last local mine

WORKING FURTHER AFIELD

1964	West Wallsend Co-operative merges with Newcastle Co-operative
1964	West Wallsend High School opens
1970	Sugarloaf Reserve established
1979	Explosion at West Wallsend No.2 colliery
1981	Co-operative Store closes

LESSENING ISOLATION

1985	West Wallsend High School & Community Museum established
1989	Earthquake destroys several buildings
1992	First two-story housing development in West Wallsend
1993	First major heritage study of communities
2011	New residential development approved
2013	Aboriginal Place – Butterfly Caves – declared

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BLASTOMETER
MU.2022.0102



Forward

I'm so proud that Lake Macquarie is now home to a state-of-the-art library museum celebrating our rich and diverse history.

The new Sugar Valley Library Museum, kirantakamyari, is a place to celebrate and learn from our past, to understand how we got where we are today, and to learn lessons about what we need to do now to make our future brighter for everyone.

Lake Macquarie is a vibrant, contemporary city that actively celebrates, promotes and values the arts, heritage, culture and diversity of our community.

So it is with great pleasure that I welcome you to the museum's first exhibition, *Westy: Stories from Sugar Valley, Lake Macquarie*.

Developed in conjunction with the West Wallsend District Heritage Group, the exhibition presents the story of our region through immersive experiences and objects portraying the life and times of the Sugar Valley district.

It's a story forged by mining, the Great Depression and geographical isolation. But more than anything, it was forged by everyday people like you and me, creating a community and a history we can now examine. Items comprising the new exhibition, as well as the Sugar Valley Library Museum's, kirantakamyari's collection more broadly, come from the collection of the former West Wallsend High School and community Museum.

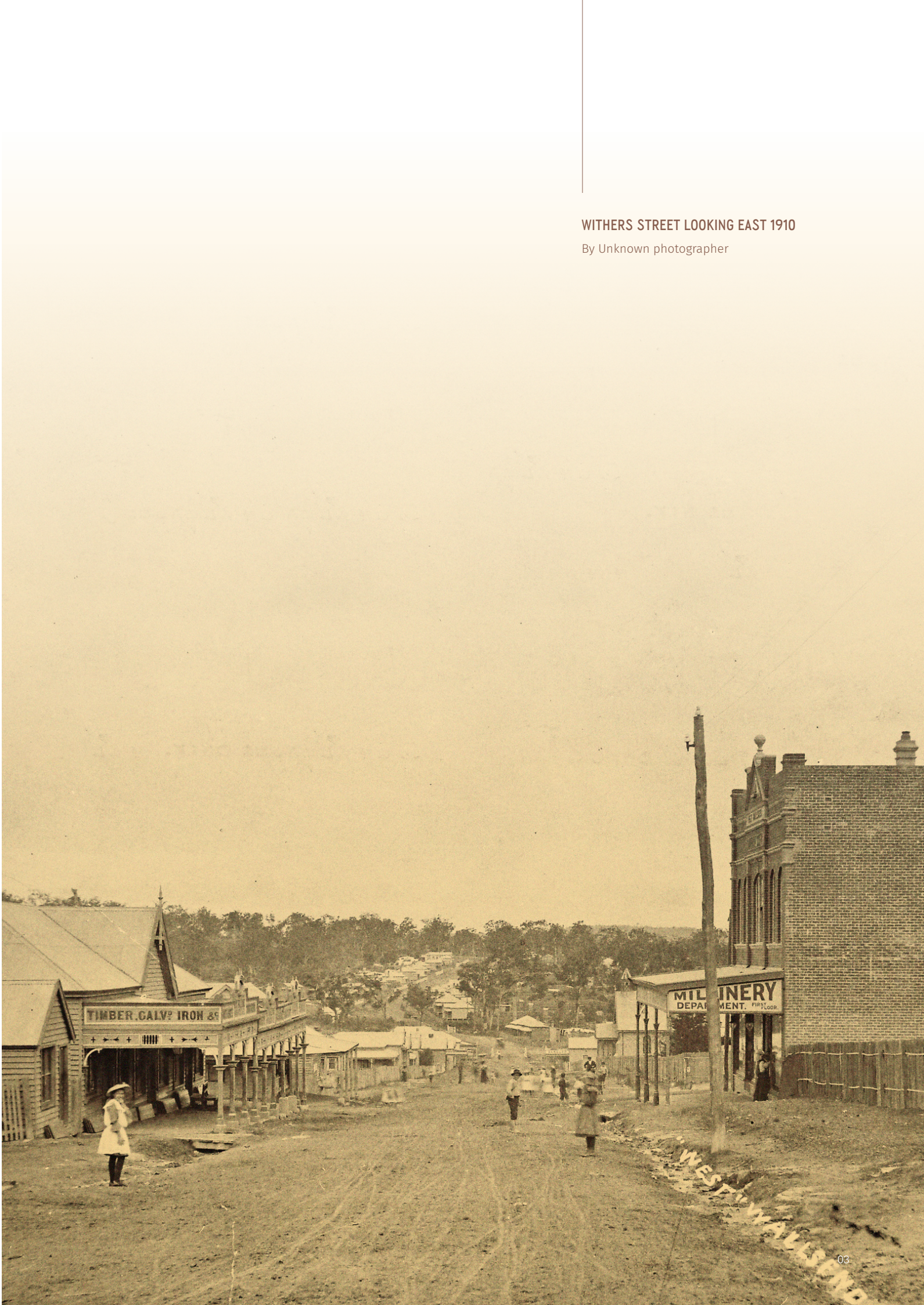
Over the past 40 years the West Wallsend and District Heritage Group have collected and cared for objects and stories from across Sugar Valley. These objects provide links to the families and communities that have formed the towns of this area. Each object has a story, and each story has helped create a community.

The collection is a source of local knowledge, stories and memories. It has been developed and managed as a community resource to inspire, educate and inform the community and visitors, and to contribute to the conservation of the history and heritage of the district, with particular emphasis on its coal mining origins in the 1880's.

I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the work and commitment of the West Wallsend and District Heritage Group in collecting and preserving our heritage. I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Exhibition Development Team in bringing together this educational and informative exhibition.

Councillor Kay Fraser
Mayor – Lake Macquarie City Council

WITHERS STREET LOOKING EAST 1910
By Unknown photographer



WEST WALLSEND, LAKE MACQUARIE, NSW

By Ralph Snowball, 17 April 1906.
Additional information by Ken Boyle.

Photo Ref: 4557

This is the view looking west along Carrington Street. The Post Office would be obscured by the two-storey building in the centre left side of the shot.

Introduction

The villages of West Wallsend and Holmesville grew up as communities for those largely working in coal mines established within the immediate district.

They are the two largest of a network of villages in the area that include or included Ladysmith, Mafeking, O'Donnelltown, Barnsley, Fairley, Killingworth and Estelville. Close association was also maintained with the villages and towns of Salty (Cockle) Creek, Minmi, Wallsend and Young Wallsend (Edgeworth).

From the 1880s until the 1930s the impact of coal mining was at its strongest as demonstrated by the development of collieries such as West Wallsend No. 1, Seaham No's 1 and 2, Killingworth, Rhondda and Mount Sugarloaf.¹ In the inter-war years however nearby mines gradually closed and these communities shrank until new mines and then the steelworks gradually transformed them into dormitory suburbs for those working in Newcastle, at first with a focus on the BHP Steelworks and after the 1980s in a greater range of jobs. In more recent times the relative isolation and bushland setting of the communities has begun to attract a more diverse socio-economic range of residents. At the same time this isolation has been eroded by the recent construction of new residential developments.

The history of these communities can be characterised as those of coal mining communities and this has meant they contain a number of features that are unusual within a broader context outside of the Hunter Valley and Newcastle. Such features range from the dominance of mining companies in owning much of the surrounding land, to the issue of mine subsidence. The popularity of soccer, brass bands, and the strength and survival of the local co-operative store are also features that can be traced back to the mining origins of many residents and families.

A feature of this history is that the relative isolation of West Wallsend and Holmesville, caused in part by the loss of the good public transport it enjoyed until the 1930s, has meant that limited development has taken place and much of its heritage value has been preserved. Another feature of perhaps greater significance is that this close-knit working-class area developed a sense of community forged by the Great Depression, the Co-operative, the coal mines and the geographic isolation that has many unique features only hinted at here.



Awaba is the Awabakal name for Lake Macquarie.

Awabakal is one of approximately 600 language groups or 'nations' that existed across Australia at the time of European contact and are part of the oldest and continuous living culture in human history. The Awabakal presence on these lands extends from the present day back many thousands of years and is reflected in both tangible and intangible aspects of Aboriginal culture and history.

Local surveys and assessments have identified Aboriginal cultural heritage sites and features of cultural value embedded within the landscape. These provide physical and spiritual sustenance to the Awabakal people.

The impact of European invasion dramatically changed Aboriginal life in Australia. The recorded history of the Awabakal people is characterised by the cultural resilience of those who have retained connection to country, and those reconnecting to country.

It is also recognised that the landscape, vegetation and watercourses of the region form part of traditional and contemporary cultural and spiritual value to many Aboriginal people.

Awabakal people have a continuing and contemporary history of trying to preserve and protect their cultural heritage. Cumulative and overlapping development, along with unmonitored and unmanaged human recreational activity continue to cause concern. These can adversely impact cultural values, landscape features and the footprints of the ancestors.

Aboriginal lore requires that the Aboriginal cultural landscape (which includes Aboriginal heritage sites, landscape features of cultural value, the plants, animals and water) is cared for, so that it will survive for future generations.

Land tenure

The first grant of land in the area appears to have been 2,560 acres to Captain James St James Ranclaud, who in 1829 was running cattle on his land “at the head of Lake Macquarie”.¹⁴ By 1865 there was a scattered community of orchardists, dairy farmers and vegetable farmers and even an irregular school.¹⁵

Some of these selections plus a later set of short-lived selections in the 1880’s were combined into the “Teralba Estate” and sold to the West Wallsend Coal Company in 1885.

For the West Wallsend Coal Company, the purchase of land freehold meant that royalties were not payable.¹⁷ For the community of West Wallsend, subdivided from this 2,926-acre purchase, it has meant being forced to obtain land for community purposes from the various coal companies that have continued to own the surrounding land. However, some scattered plots of land remained that were not owned by the West Wallsend Coal Company,

at least for a time; these included the 60 acres of Richard O’Donnell, 40 acres of Joseph Notley, 67 acres of James Price, and some larger land plots belonging to Joseph and Samuel Holmes.¹⁸

West Wallsend was based on a subdivision plan prepared by the West Wallsend Coal Company to develop a town to house the workers it knew it would need to obtain what it described as “a practically inexhaustible supply of proved coal”.¹⁹ The West Wallsend township was surveyed and subdivided in 1886 (DP 2252) with a second subdivision in 1889 (DP 2253) and a third subdivision declared in 1901 (DP 3805). The Newcastle Morning Herald reported that at the first auction in 1887 many blocks were “knocked down” for £50 with many buyers coming from the nearby coal mining community of Minmi.²⁰

West Wallsend and the smaller scattered settlements of the districts have largely been surrounded by land owned by coal mining companies. In West Wallsend itself a 1951 plan to build 100 Housing Commission homes was the first major change to this balance.²⁷ Though it seems not so many houses were in fact ever built.



NOTLEY'S PADDOCK, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 4509
Creator: Unknown

Joseph Notley (1837-1932) was an early settler in the West Wallsend area from around 1856. He moved the family to Copeland during the gold rushes but applied for a land grant in the area which was granted in 1884. He built a slab house roughly at the junction of present-day Powell Street and Teralba Road, West Wallsend. The distinctive shape of Mount Sugarloaf can be seen in the background.

HOLMES EARLY HOMESTEAD

Creator: unknown – From West Wallsend District Heritage Society Inc





KILLINGWORTH COLLIERY, NEW WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 470
Creator: Hutchinson, Mr James

*Also known as West Wallsend
Extended Colliery, Killingworth*

Coal mining

The character of West Wallsend has been developed primarily through its history as a coal mining community. Newcastle itself was developed in part from its coal deposits and the nearby Wallsend coal mines' existing reputation appears to have been consciously used in naming the new mine, and consequently its new community, West Wallsend.

In 1886 a new railway line passed through Wallsend and this allowed potential coal companies to build relatively short connecting links that enabled new mines to be established.²⁹ This is what inspired the new West Wallsend Coal Company, founded with seven shareholders, mostly mine owners and lawyers from Sydney, with £90,000 capital.³⁰ The West Wallsend Coal Company colliery commenced production in July 1888 after some years of lead up work.

The Monkwearmouth Coal Co. colliery also began producing in the area in March 1890 after four years of preparation, becoming the Seaham Colliery in 1891-92. West Wallsend Extended (Killingworth) opened in 1892 and Seaham No. 2 was opened in 1905. These mines and others formed the economic basis of the West Wallsend/Holmesville group of communities.

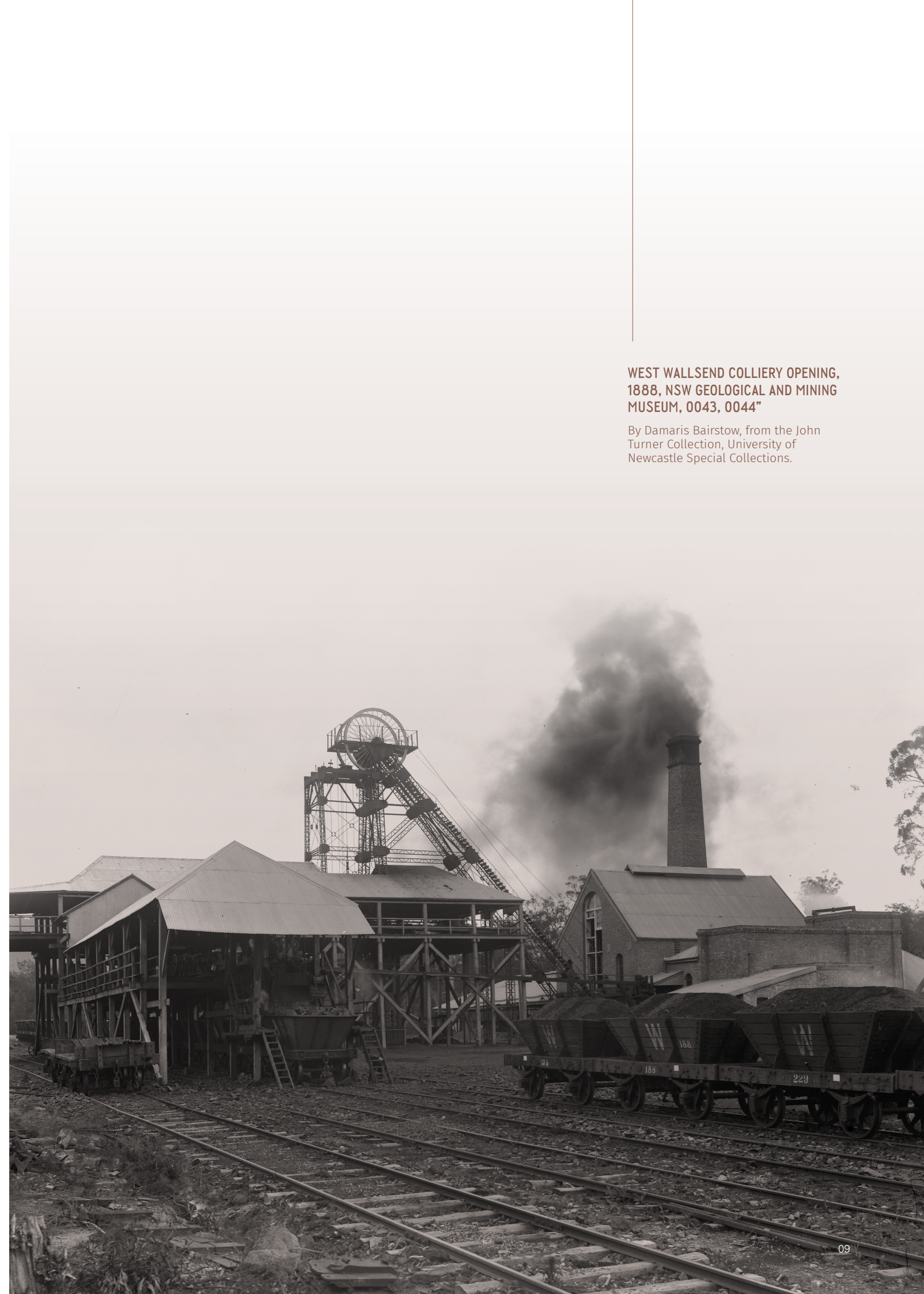
As these mines ceased production the impact on the surrounding communities was consequently great. The West Wallsend Colliery closed in 1923; West Wallsend Extended (Killingworth) ceased production for four years in December 1910 after an explosion, and was closed in 1930, but was in operation again from 1950 to 1956. Seaham No. 1 closed in 1932; and Seaham No. 2 in 1945.³¹ By 1972 only two small mines were operating – Mount Sugarloaf and Killingworth.³²

Killingworth Colliery was originally known as Newcastle New Wallsend Colliery. It was owned by the Newcastle New Wallsend Coal Company. In 1895 ownership changed to the Caledonian Coal Company and it became Killingworth Colliery with production starting in 1897. In 1905 the name changed to the West Wallsend-Killingworth Colliery and in about 1915, the Wallsend Extended Colliery. It operated for various time periods - 1897 to 1913, 1920 to 1930, and 1950 to 1956.

All of these mines seemed to have begun as men only mines, meaning the men worked with picks and no machines, and even by 1912 only the Rhondda Colliery was a machine mine.³³ Pit ponies were however extensively used, with some looked after by Richard Frith of Holmesville (after his brickyards closed down) as a holster/veterinarian in Holmesville.³⁴ An ostler who lived at Ladysmith was reported working at the Stockrington No.1 mine in 1950 and the Mount Sugarloaf Colliery was still using pit ponies in the 1950s.³⁵

WEST WALLSEND COLLIERY OPENING, 1888, NSW GEOLOGICAL AND MINING MUSEUM, 0043, 0044"

By Damaris Bairstow, from the John
Turner Collection, University of
Newcastle Special Collections.



JIM SLOW
 (Wheeler, West Wallsend Mine) c.1890's
 Photo Ref: 3820



Pictured

- a. MINERS SKIP TAGS MU.2021.0092
- b. DAVEY'S MINING LAMP MU.2021.0188
- c. CALEDONIAN DANGER SIGN MU.2021.0632
- d. DRAGER GAS DETECTOR MU.2021.0050
- e. PONY NAME TAGS
- f. MINER'S BOOTS MU.2021.0094



WEST WALLSEND FISHING CLUB C.1915

Photo Ref: 23845
Creator: Unknown

"Fishe" Jack Richardson (centre back) ; Bob Sevester (marked with an x - straw hat and tie); Violet Sevester (older child marked with an x). Photo taken at Swansea. The occasion was probably a monthly picnic on a boat hired from and piloted by Fishe Jack.

CROSS SAW

MU.2022.0700
MU.2022.0702



Environment

The environment of the West Wallsend area is a very rich one. Drained by Cockle Creek and its tributaries, the land lies between the rugged Mount Sugarloaf and Lake Macquarie, the largest salt water lake in Australia, bounded by swamps providing fresh water and diverse habitats.

For the European arrivals the coal seams underlying the land were undoubtedly the prime environmental feature that influenced the growth and development of the community. Another feature, prominent enough to be mentioned in the West Wallsend Coal Company's initial prospectus of 1885, was timber. This was one of the "salient advantages" of the land, which was "covered by a forest of valuable timber".³⁷ Timber at this time was essential for the mines as pit props, with Mount Sugarloaf also providing this resource as nearer supplies were used up. An abundance of timber was significant for the development of West Wallsend and nearby coal mines.

The general environment of West Wallsend consists of rolling hills, which give numerous views from various locations while the overall landscape is dominated by Mount Sugarloaf to the west. The proximity to Mount Sugarloaf and its bush also provided a playground for children and adults in addition to its timber resources. While the road up to the summit was not built until "dole days", many would nevertheless walk up to the summit for picnics, and generations of boys hunted after bee hives and used shanghai's to shoot locusts and cicadas, while parrots were caught using poles and "snares made out of horses' tails". The "lillypilly trees provided ammunition for your shanghai. When the blackberries were in, you'd be there with your kerosene tin."³⁸

In the opposite direction, to the south-east of West Wallsend, Cockle Creek – also known as Salty Creek – was significant as both a place of recreational swimming and also fishing. Though in general the area did not have plentiful surface water, with the residents relying on numerous wells or on the dam built by the colliery just to the north of West Wallsend.

In 1971 the Mount Sugarloaf Reserve was declared, recognising this previously privately leased area as one deserving of protection.³⁹

West Wallsend (aka Westy)

Nearby Wallsend (named after Wallsend on the River Tyne in the United Kingdom) was known for having the best coal and this seems to have prompted the use of ‘West Wallsend’ as a name for both the coal company and the subsequent town.

A town whose layout and subdivision was undertaken by the West Wallsend Coal Company for the purpose of both helping finance its mining operations through the sale of land and providing itself with a workforce in close proximity.

The streets of West Wallsend were mostly named after directors and others associated with the Company, an exception being Renwick St, named after a depression era doctor.⁴² During 1886-88 some 40 workers were employed on sinking the shaft and other preparation work for the start of the mine. These workers were housed in huts clustered around the mine. By 1888 it was reported that a large hotel was under construction, a post office had been established, a petition for a public school had been submitted and arrangements were underway for the construction of the school, and the company had granted sites for churches of any denomination who wished to construct a place of worship.⁴³

In 1900 West Wallsend is reported to have a population of 3000, with many in temporary accommodation during the week and returning to their permanent homes on the weekend due to a shortage of houses.

At this time the School of Arts building was being planned and the Church of England, Methodists and Presbyterians had dedicated buildings that pre-date their current church buildings and the co-operative was considered to be well established.⁴⁴

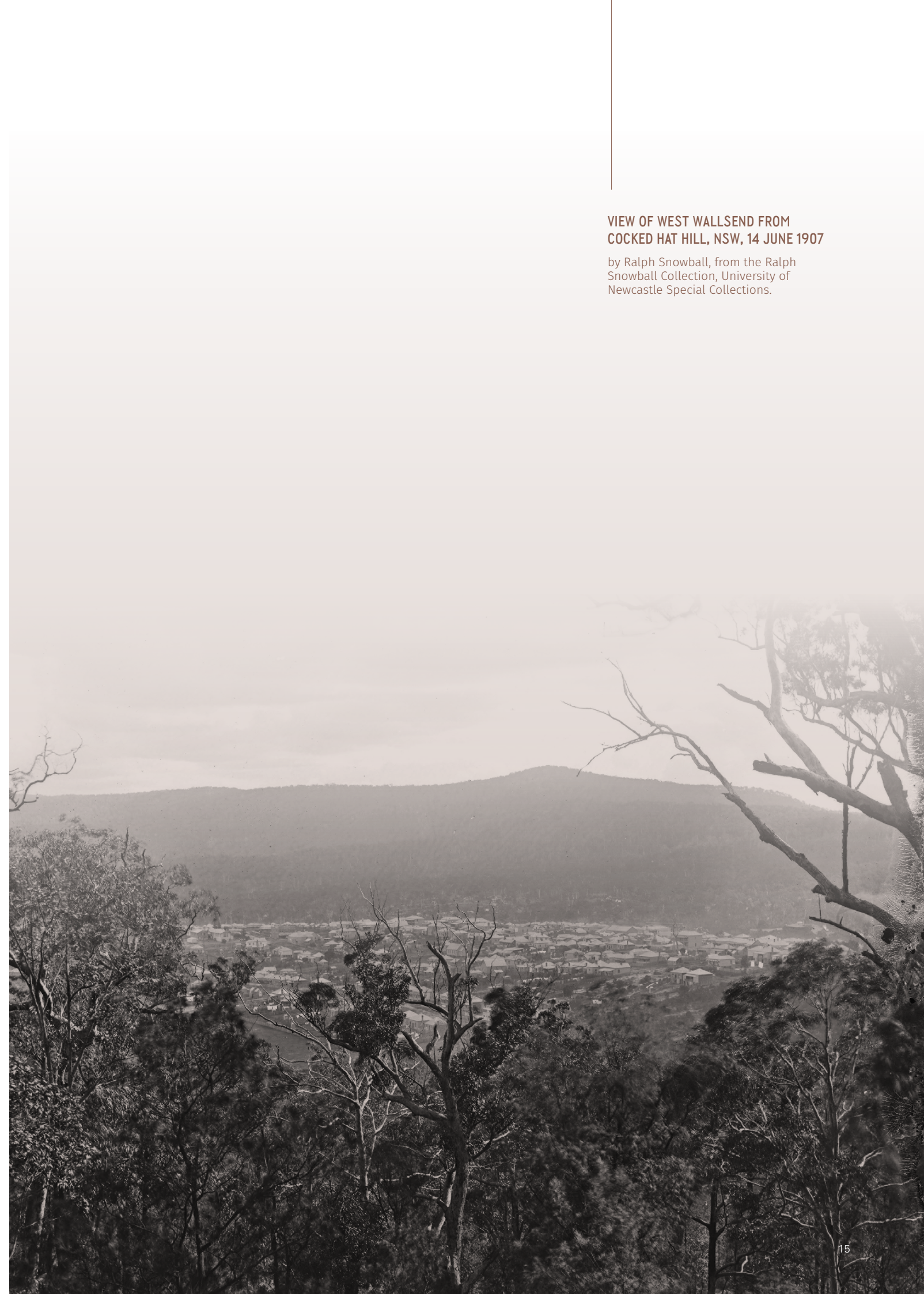
In 1901 the West Wallsend population was 2344 in 481 houses.⁴⁵ By 1905 the area was said to have a population of 2894, which seems to have been a peak.⁴⁶ A population of over 5000 or even 6000 is sometimes reported at this period but this seems to have included areas such as Minmi well outside West Wallsend and perhaps a large “camping” population. In a 1903 publican’s license application the applicant claims West Wallsend’s population is 5000, while the police opposing the licence assert “West Wallsend proper” is only 2500.⁴⁷

By 1911 the population was 567 homes and 2723, numbers that remained steady up to 1921 with 574 homes and 2752 persons. After the West Wallsend Colliery closure in 1923, the 1929 lockout and the beginning of the Great Depression, the population had by 1933 fallen to some 517 homes and 2023 persons and after the war in 1947 was only 475 homes and 1683 persons. These figures may underestimate numbers as the West Wallsend Police District, which covered a wider area, reported 4000 people in 1932.⁴⁸

By 1954 numbers had begun to rise again to 2401; and in 1961 was 2687; by 1966 it was 2719; and in 1971 residents numbered 2910.⁴⁹ The 1980s and 1990s saw another period of falling population and in 2011 the number of residents was recorded as 1714, though living in a larger number of homes than ever before at 687.⁵⁰

VIEW OF WEST WALLSEND FROM
COCKED HAT HILL, NSW, 14 JUNE 1907

by Ralph Snowball, from the Ralph
Snowball Collection, University of
Newcastle Special Collections.



THE BOULEVARDE KILLINGWORTH

Date: Unknown

Creator: Unknown from West Wallsend District Heritage Society Inc.

*Dr Lowes house on the corner.
Police station shown by the arrow.*

Connected settlements

West Wallsend/Holmesville are merely the two biggest of a network of separated settlements that grew up in association with the various coal mines of the area.

These settlements are Ladysmith, Mafeking, Killingworth, Barnsley, Fairley, O'Donelltown & Estelville. Of these only Barnsley, Killingworth continue today (with the Seaham Street part of Estelville now incorporated into Holmesville).

Ladysmith and Mafeking are of special interest in that they never appear to have been officially established. Ladysmith had a population of perhaps 20 families in the 1930s and Mafeking was even smaller.⁵⁹ It was common when West Wallsend's population was growing rapidly in the 1890s and 1900s for people to camp and it is possible that these settlements grew up around what had originally been such camps.⁶⁰



Migration and Ethnic influences

A high proportion of the miners who originally settled in West Wallsend appear to have been from Scotland, northern England and Wales, in other words from mining associated districts in Britain.

In addition to those from Britain and Ireland there were a number of people from other countries, but not sufficient it would seem to create a cultural group or distinct community. There was for example Mr. Joseph Cristani, who died in Holmesville in 1950, aged 83. Mr Cristani was born in Sondolo, northern Italy, and had come to Australia around 1895 and to Holmesville about 1907 to work as a miner in such collieries as Seaham No.1 and 2.⁶²

Migrants from China were also present in West Wallsend and Holmesville, though not in large numbers. At least one Chinese market garden is recorded at Cockle Creek and at least one vegetable hawker, named Tommy On Yow was present in Holmesville, while another person who sold drapery door-to-door would store his baskets with a local women in Holmesville while on his trips to China.⁶³



**LOCOMOTIVE 'WESTWARD HO',
WEST WALLSEND, NSW, 15 JUNE 1898**

Photographed by Ralph Snowball.
Photo Ref: 25555

**DOG SPIKES WERE USED TO FIX
STEEL RAIL TO WOODEN SLEEPERS**

*The head of this dog spike is stamped
WWCC: West Wallsend Colliery Company.
Circa 1886-88*

MU.2021.0054



Transport

The communities were established close to the various mines of the district and this meant that for most mine workers their workplaces were within walking distance, even if this was a walk of several kilometres.

However, for the coal companies a rail network was required to deliver the coal to Newcastle and this was established along with the first mines in the late 1880's. While a passenger service was always associated with these coal trains this was not felt to be reliable and buses (at first horse drawn) and later a steam tram service was established connecting West Wallsend/Holmesville with Wallsend and services to Newcastle.

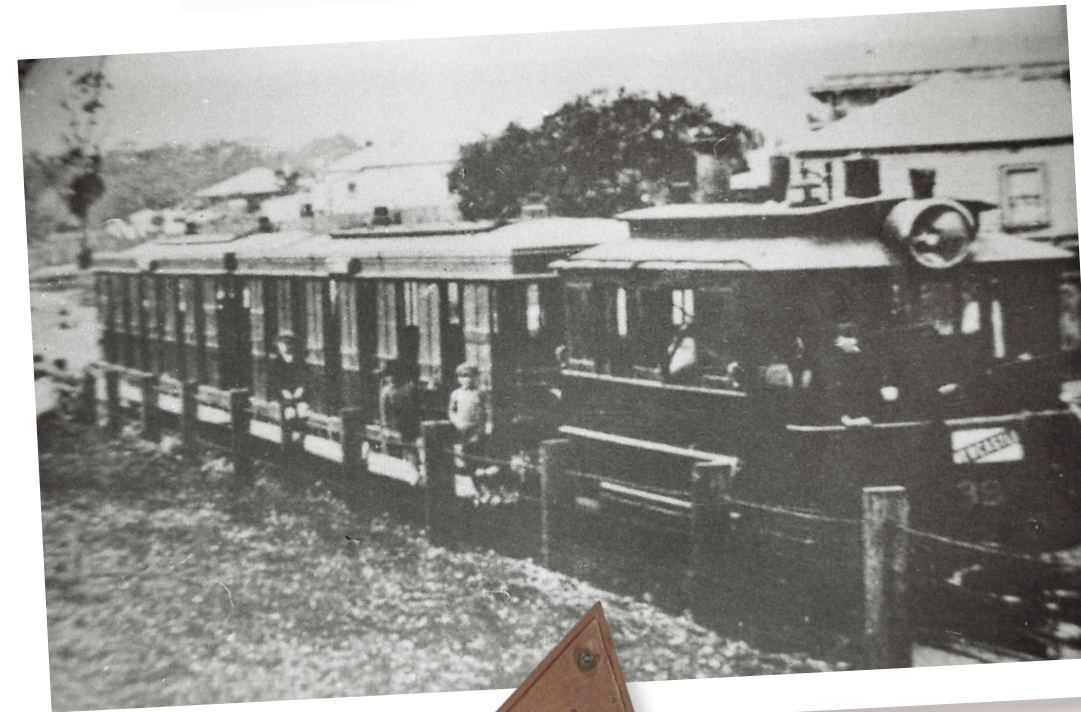
The first transport services in West Wallsend were double-decker, open-topped horse buses, drawn by four horses and known as 'Yankees'. In 1901 a license to run "a 'Yankee' bus between Wallsend and West Wallsend" was granted to Mr. David Broadfoot. These 'Yankee' buses were likely from Sydney where they had been replaced by the electric trams. This service ran until 1910 when it was replaced by the new (steam) tram.⁶⁴

The horse drawn buses operated in parallel with the passenger services associated with the coal companies. Private railways as the passenger services were limited by the demands of coal transportation. The opening of the West Wallsend Colliery in 1888 included the opening of the companies' private rail from West Wallsend through to the junction with the main line at Cockle Creek and on to Newcastle and its associated passenger service.⁶⁵ Later another line ran to Holmesville from the junction at Cockle Creek to service the Seaham No.1 and No.2 collieries as well as that at West Wallsend.

The passenger service of these coal carrying lines, where each company reputedly took it in turns to supply and operate the railway, included stations at West Wallsend, at the corner of Laidley and Wilson Streets, as well as at Holmesville and Barnsley.⁶⁶ Around 1910 all these stations received new buildings and platforms.⁶⁷ Another station south of Bridge Street was for the mine manager only. The lines crossed roads at three points at which were located fences with gatekeepers.

OPENING OF WEST WALLSEND TRAMWAY

Photo Ref: 4502
Creator: Snowball, Mr Ralph



TRAM TERMINUS, WEST WALLSEND.

Photo Ref: 719
Creator: Unknown

Tram line construction started April 1909. Service opened 19 December 1910. The tram service was popular & generally uneventful except for a couple of derailments, in one of which the tram driver was killed. The steam tram service lasted until the Depression, and the last tram ran on 2 November 1930. The tram service was then replaced by a motor bus.

TRIANGLE SIGN

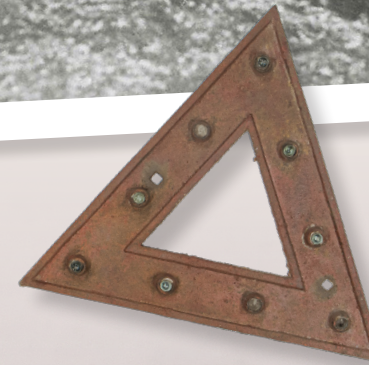
MU.2022.0159

While only providing a morning and evening passenger service, the trains played a significant part in the life of the community. The “cock-a-doodle-doo” of the approaching trains signaling special events such as the return of soldiers or the success of the local soccer team. While there was no station at Killingworth, special trains would stop outside the Killingworth Hotel and people would use stools to get on and off the train. The rail passenger service continued until 1930, even after the closure of the West Wallsend mine in 1923, with all services ceasing in 1938.⁶⁸

Despite the passenger service associated with the private coal lines, agitation for improved transport in the form of a tram connection from West Wallsend began as early as 1900. It was not until 1910 however that such a connection was opened.⁷⁰ This service began in September 1910 with a line running along Lake Road, Glendale before heading west along Main Road Edgeworth and through Young Wallsend, Estelville, and Holmesville before terminating at West Wallsend at the corner of Railway and Laidley Streets, between the Museum Hotel and the railway station for a return trip. This tram service was steam powered and at 25 kilometers, and taking an hour and 32 minutes, it is still considered to be the longest length of steam tram line in Australia. Another feature of this service was that the “Westy” trams used coal rather than coke, thus producing more smoke than trams operating closer to the urban areas. Never a very profitable line, it was never electrified before its closure in 1930. During this time at least three deaths occurred in three separate accidents.⁷¹

The tram service ended the horse-drawn ‘Yankee buses’ but by 1924 they were competing with buses again when Johnson’s Motor Service ran routes around West Wallsend district, including to the mines, as did Young & Greens. The trams ran only once every one and half hours while the bus routes ran to Newcastle, Warners Bay and to the Seaham Colliery.⁷² After the closure of the tram in 1930 bus services varied. In 1967 there was no direct service to Newcastle, though there was one to the Newcastle Steelworks. In 1979 the Ross Bus Service also operated.⁷³ Bus services today are infrequent and most people rely upon cars to get in and out of West Wallsend and Holmesville.

While the rails of the tramway were removed in 1937 the line itself, including embankments and cuttings, remained visible well into the 21st century.⁷⁴ The last evidence of Australia’s longest steam tramway were removed in 2012 as part of a new residential development despite a 1993 heritage study recommendation that it be preserved and used as a cycleway, numerous management plans recognising the heritage value of the tramway, its recognition as having high regional and very high local significance by Lake Macquarie Council, and in 2012 community opposition and efforts to have the tramway incorporated into the newly established Newcastle system of cycleways.⁷⁵





WEST WALLSEND POST OFFICE
PHOTO REF: 1650

Creator: Snowball, Mr Ralph

West Wallsend Post Office was first established in 1888 and operated out of a building at 72 Carrington Street. The new brick Post office was opened on 23 August 1906.

Pictured

- a. **GE74 TELEPHONE** MU.2021.0059
- b. **FIREMAN'S AXE** MU.2023.0002
- c. **BURNT FIREMAN'S HELMET** MU.2022.0615

Communication

The establishment of West Wallsend postal services began in July 1888 with the appointment of a postmistress, Miss Blanche Clinton at £10 per year.

In 1891 a telegraph office introduced, which seems to have simply been a telephone line to Wallsend where the actual telegraph operator was. In 1906, a separate Post Office building was constructed (it remains the Post Office today), and in 1911 a telephone exchange opened.⁷⁶



a.

Utilities

As very little permanent water was to be found, the West Wallsend Coal Company constructed a dam to service both the colliery and the township.

For most families it was necessary to dig a well in the back yard or to collect rainwater.⁷⁸ West Wallsend began to be connected to an outside water supply around 1902.⁷⁹

A West Wallsend Fire Brigade was established by 1910, with phones at several locations for raising an alarm, while at Holmesville a hose cart was stored at 34 George Street to be used at need.⁸¹ These would have been volunteer based and were still volunteer in 1952 when the need for more permanent staffing was discussed.⁸²



b.

c.



MEMBERS OF THE O'DONNELL FAMILY AT
THE FOOT OF MOUNT SUGARLOAF C1880

Photo Ref: 24652

Pictured

- a. **BLACKSMITH'S APRON** MU.2021.0127
- b. **BLACKSMITH'S BOWL AND NAILS** MU.2022.0032

Industry

Coal mining was the predominate industry associated with the West Wallsend/Holmesville district.⁸⁶ However at various times some local industries have operated, most notable brickyards to supply material for houses and collieries, and timber getting to also provide construction material but more importantly timber props for the mines.

Brickyards included the Frith family brickworks in Holmesville whose bricks were identified in the Wilson Street well study and the Reynolds brickyard located on the road to the West Wallsend cemetery.⁸⁷

The original advertisements for the West Wallsend Coal Company referred to the plentiful timber and this was brought to the mine sites by bullock by families such as the O'Donnells who had farmed land between West Wallsend and the Sugarloaf escarpment since the 1860s. A local saw-mill cut the timber for both the mine and local houses.⁸⁸

In 1948 the Co-operative Wholesale Society established a clothing factory in West Wallsend.⁸⁹

Strike!

With the coal mines for long the dominant employer of the communities, the labour practices of coal mines, miners and associated workers, including the role of unions, strikes and unemployment, were of great significance.

In fact, the beginning of labour history in West Wallsend appears to have begun in 1888 along with West Wallsend itself with a strike. The owners of the new West Wallsend Colliery were associated with those of other coal mines who were attempting to break an 1872 agreement that linked the payment of miners to a sliding scale based on the price of coal. The result was that just as the new West Wallsend mine was opened a strike commenced. This strike involved bringing in strike breakers from Sydney who were for a time housed in huts on Wilson Street that were known as Scab Row. Police and military protection, including the use of a machine gun, was involved but the final result was a return to work on the pre-strike conditions.⁹⁰ Although some disturbances occurred at other mines, there was no trouble at West Wallsend and as many of the “blacklegs” had been signed up on false pretenses and were navvies rather than miners, many left without doing any work.⁹¹



PAYBAGS
MU.2021.0060

That of 1888 was a general dispute that involved many mines, but within a year the West Wallsend Colliery was in dispute with its own miners alone over the “price for yardwork”. The “Miner’s Delegate Board” (union) offered a new system of independent arbitration in October 1889 that was rejected by the company and as the dispute dragged on the “infant town” of West Wallsend languished. The strike finally ended in early 1890 after 29 weeks.⁹²

These were not the last strikes nor the last time non-union workers would be used. In 1895, a report of a court case gives a vivid picture of both relations between union and non-union workers and of the degree of solidarity union members would demonstrate:

In Newcastle, on March 6, two Seaham Colliery miners named Thomas Hoare and Alexander M'Donald were charged with inflicting grievous bodily harm on Henry O'Brien. There was a second count against the accused of common assault. O'Brien deposed that he and his mate (Anderson) were non-unionist miners at the Seaham Colliery, and about 100 other accused strikers met them in the bush near West Wallsend, and seriously assaulted them, and burned their swags. Both accused swore that they were attending a miners' meeting at West Wallsend when the alleged assault took place, and their testimony was supported by a number of witnesses who were at the meeting. Both the accused were acquitted.⁹³

TOP MEN, WEST WALLSEND COLLIERY

By Ralph Snowball, from the Ralph Snowball Collection, University of Newcastle Special Collections.

West Wallsend, NSW, 15 May 1898





WEST WALLSEND BRASS BAND

Photo Ref: 5835 Creator: Unknown

West Wallsend Brass Band was formed in 1898 with Mr W Barkell as Bandmaster. They won the Australian Championships each year from 1904-1910. They won many other championships and competitions under different Bandmasters until they were disbanded in 1952.

The Thomas Hoare mentioned is very likely Thomas ‘Bondy’ Hoare who ran as a Senate candidate for the Socialist Labor Party and was elected President of the Northern Branch of the Miners Federation in 1922. On that occasion he was presented at a gathering held in the Oddfellows Hall with a framed photograph of the members of the Socialist Labor Party of West Wallsend, which included himself and Dave McNeill, a councillor of the Federation and long time secretary of the West Wallsend Branch of the Socialist Labor Party. The toast was “Success to the revolutionary socialist movement”.⁹⁴

In 1910 an account of another strike refers to “co-operative mines” as a “thorn in the side of the West Wallsend people” and also reveals how the West Wallsend Brass Band took the opportunity to make a tour of Queensland “while the strike lasts”. That the miners and associated workers could continue a strike for any period was due in part to what was called a “district commissary committee”, which kept in touch with “any cases of distress” and assisted through what must have been a well-maintained fund. Money was not handed out for the asking however, with investigations made at every sitting of the committee; a task described at times as “very unpleasant”.⁹⁵

The commissary committee was elected by the various miner’s lodges and not only provided cash to those in need but collected and distributed goods in kind (some from as far away as Wyong). During the strike of 1909-10 the West Wallsend Co-operative provided a four-room dwelling as a commissary depot. This was not the limit of the support and inter-connection between the striking miners and their community. The miner’s lodges also issued

“promissory notes” and the Co-operative Store not only agreed to provide goods to their value but at a meeting of shareholders it was agreed (with some dissent) to suspend payment of dividends so that sufficient capital would be available to continue meeting the needs of the striking miners.⁹⁶

While ‘miners’ naturally predominate, in fact a coal mine operating with little or no mechanisation employed a large range of workers in addition to those who were actual miners at perhaps a ratio of one support worker for every two miners in 1900.⁹⁷ This ranged from the mine manager to under-managers, overmen, firemen, surface men, colliers, workmen, wheelers, trappers, set riders, furnacemen, engineers, banksmen, onsetters, brakesmen and drivers.⁹⁸ Wheelers for example, handled the carts that moved the coal to the surface, while trappers controlled the doors that were required to maintain air within the mines, others of course worked on the surface, including those running the trains that took the coal onto Newcastle.

The presence of the mines so close to housing meant their impact on the town was easily felt. The steam driven pit whistles, for example, were used to signal not only working times but also whether work was needed that day or the next; a long whistle meant there would be pay, a short whistle meant there would be nothing.⁹⁹

Working conditions naturally varied over time with increased mechanisation transforming much of the work entirely. A glimpse of general conditions at the beginning of the 20th century is found in a mine-by-mine description.

From West Wallsend Colliery:

*On the Thursday night of pay-week, each man is given a pay slip with his number, name, and amount owing written on it, which he brings already signed on the following day, and gives in exchange for his money. The pay for each man is counted out beforehand and placed in a tin cup kept on a rack properly numbered. In this way there is no delay when paying a number of men.*¹⁰⁰

And from the West Wallsend-Killingworth Colliery:

*The number on a miner’s token varies with the place where he is working, but the number on his lamp is always the same, and a token is hung up on a peg when his lamp is taken below. In this way the management can ascertain how many and what men are at work, and where they are employed.*¹⁰¹

A mine worker himself recalls:

*We’d ride our bikes home after work – five or six miles – have tea, perhaps have a couple of pints of beer, and you’d be so tired by seven o’clock, you’d go home and go to bed to be up at five the next morning.*¹⁰²

Such conditions as mine workers had was often hard fought for. In 1916, for example, miners won the right of “Bank to Bank” – meaning they were paid from the time they began to go underground rather than only when they arrived at the coal face.¹⁰³ Again in 1925-26 a lamp strike was necessary as the men wanted to use the safer electricity and refused kerosene lamps after a lamp cabin fire destroyed their own lamps.¹⁰⁴

The most severe blow came with the widespread mine lockout in 1929 after workers refused a proposed pay cut. The infamous Rothbury Riot occurred at this time and no doubt miners from West Wallsend were involved in what began as a protest against the use of non-union labour and ended in a death.¹⁰⁵ With the Great Depression underway this was a struggle the miners lost and by 1932 it was reported that only 90 men were in employment in West Wallsend out of a population of 4,000.¹⁰⁶



**MOUNT SUGARLOAF
COLLIERY 1949**

Creator: Unknown from
Community Museum
Collection

The 1930's were therefore years of dole work and in 1935 men working for the dole often did road works both locally and on projects away from home. These "dollies" locally built a road up Mount Sugarloaf, well as the kerb and guttering along Withers Street, which was known as the "Golden Mile".

With its high unemployment – some referred to West Wallsend at this time as 'West Worldsend' – the community was also a center for the Unemployed Workers Union. This organisation had representatives of the State Labour Exchanges set up during the depression, one of which seemed to have been located in Holmesville. In 1935 relief workers met on the Holmesville cricket ground and struck over soldier preference.¹⁰⁸ In the same year some 600 men, led by a brass band, marched eight miles from West Wallsend to Speers Point to protest to the Lake Macquarie Shire Council about their relief work conditions.¹⁰⁹

The strike by unemployed men had widespread local support at a public meeting held in the Newcastle Town Hall and included demands that relief work to be paid at award rates.¹¹⁰

These demands by unemployed men in the 1930s were supported by the Miners Federation and this was a continuation of the long history of union activity within the West Wallsend/Holmesville communities that went beyond strikes. This was based on a system of miner's lodges to which all workers at a mine belonged. Despite this history, relatively little is now known in detail of the activities of the lodges in the life of the communities. Glimpses can be seen, such as when the dues to the lodges were paid each "Pay Saturday" at stumps in the pit paddock or later in stump huts (to pay union dues was called to "pay his stump").¹¹¹ Or of an account of a lodge meeting held at Presland Hall in 1891 discussing the unfair dismissal of a worker, or when the "Yearly Fund" associated with the Seaham Colliery was wound up with a supper at "Watson's lodge room", including singing, recitations and toasts to the King.¹¹² During strikes the miners lodges organised "commissary committees" to assist those in special need,¹¹³ the May Day marches in the 1920s were subsidised by the miner's lodges.¹¹⁴

Despite the long history of mining associated with the communities the only memorial to miners as such is the Sugarloaf Colliery sign erected on the corner of the public school, which includes a list of miners killed in accidents.

Women

Due to the nature of both sources and of the historical period covered women were greatly underrepresented and even when they were mentioned it is usually as a "Mrs" followed by both her husband's initial and family name.

It should be noted that throughout most of the period from the establishment of West Wallsend until the 1970s women provided almost all the fund-raising efforts behind the many social events and community activities that occurred. The main committees that ran community organisations were usually men only, while a women's sub-committee organised the fundraising.

The women who baked the food and organised the sales that brought in the funds in the years before government funding that ran all but the commercial enterprises within communities such as West Wallsend, Holmesville and others remain largely anonymous.

One women whose full name is known was Nurse Ellen Jane Torrance who owned and ran the "Glen Ayr" Private Hospital on Appletree Road, between West Wallsend and Holmesville. For 24 years Nurse Torrance worked in West Wallsend, including service in the "N.E.S. Emergency Hospital" at West Wallsend (a kind of First Aid Station in case of attack). Ellen Torrance died in 1950 aged only 57.¹¹⁷

The women of the West Wallsend Co-operative Women's Guild worked to raise money for many selected causes, such as the Wallsend Hospital. Another group of unnamed women are the 100 or so who accompanied those who marched to Speers Point, including one who addressed the Lake Macquarie Shire Council, and another 25 who attended the public meeting in Newcastle as part of the strike by the unemployed against the conditions of relief being imposed on their husbands, brothers and fathers.¹¹⁸ While women did not generally receive relief, there were women who were recognised as unemployed and special representations were made concerning the "unemployed women and girls at West Wallsend" by the local MLA George Booth.¹¹⁹

Commerce

The small size of West Wallsend and associated settlements as well as their proximity to larger centres such as Newcastle limited the range of commercial enterprises. The outstanding exception to this was the early founding and long-life of the West Wallsend Co-operative Society.

The West Wallsend Co-Operative Society was founded in 1891 by workers who were residents of West Wallsend. The first meeting was held in William Harden's home and the West Wallsend Co-operative Society was formed with 22 shareholders.¹²² It first operated from a small wooden shop, which still stands opposite the post office and was later a doctor's surgery, until new premises were built in 1893.

At this stage the co-operative had 82 members, a profit of over £600 and was paying dividends.¹²³

The first section of the two-storey brick building on the current site was built in 1902. It amalgamated with the Newcastle and District Co-operative Society in 1964.

The new premises were enlarged in 1895 and a new two-storey building was built in 1906.¹²⁴

Known also as "The People's Hive", in the 1890s, weekly deliveries were begun to Minmi and Holmesville. Around 1900 the co-operative had 1,044 members when the district around West Wallsend had a population of 6,000. In 1910 a report declared the West Wallsend Co-operative to be "the largest co-operative store in New South Wales".¹²⁵ It often paid dividends as high as two shillings in the pound and in 1927 could claim that 70 percent of local demand was supplied by the store.¹²⁶ The West Wallsend Co-operative met this demand in part with its numerous delivery carts and its large stable of horses. It also had a bakehouse by 1900, which only converted its wood fired ovens to oil in 1951.¹²⁷ Even after the closure of the West Wallsend Colliery in 1923 and the decline of West Wallsend's population the West Wallsend Co-operative continued to grow. It did this by establishing branches in Belmont and Swansea, by the 1960s it had more members in these areas than in West Wallsend.¹²⁸

THE CO-OPERATIVE STORE, WEST WALLSEND, NSW, 29 AUGUST 1895

by Ralph Snowball, from the Ralph Snowball Collection, University of Newcastle Special Collections.
Photo Ref: 25562

The West Wallsend Co-operative Society began in the 1890s as part of the Co-operative movement sweeping the country. These premises were built in 1893.





WEST WALLSEND CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY SHOPFRONT

Photo Ref: 2719 Creator: Unknown
The West Wallsend Co-operative Society

began in the 1890s as part of the Cooperative movement sweeping the country. The first section of the 2-storey brick building on the current site was built in 1902. It amalgamated with the Newcastle and District Co-operative Society in 1964.

COOP BREAD TOKENS MU.2021.0074



VULCAN SEWING MACHINE MU.2021.0067

CO-OPERATIVE SOCIETY STORE, WITHERS STREET, WEST WALLSEND, NSW, 28 MARCH 1898

Creator: Snowball, Mr Ralph Premises enlarged in 1895.
By Ralph Snowball, from the Ralph Snowball Collection, University of Newcastle Special Collections.
Photo Ref: 4626

Despite its size, the West Wallsend Co-operative continued to run as an independent local co-operative until 1964, after which it was absorbed into the Newcastle and Suburban Co-operative Society Limited.¹²⁹

In West Wallsend itself an early competitor of the co-operative was established by one of its former managers, Edward Stobbs, who in 1896 set up a store at 69 Carrington Street. In 1908 this store was purchased by Thomas Vaisey, then in 1916 it was Wylie's store until 1947, by which time West Wallsend was half its 1920 population and the last of the four mines had closed. The store at this time was taken over by the West Wallsend co-operative and used by the Co-operative Wholesale Society and the Co-operative Women's Guild as a clothing factory.¹³⁴ After it was sold in 1960 it was used by a variety of commercial operations – butcher, hairdresser and liquor store.¹³⁵



Defence

Citizen soldiers were an important but little-known aspect of 19th century military history, the precursor of the regular infantry, and forerunner of today's reservists.

The 4th Regiment of the New South Wales Volunteer Infantry was raised in 1884. The regiment was based at Newcastle, with companies in outlying districts. E Company was based at West Wallsend. Samuel Holmes, son of Joseph Holmes, was a member of E Company, and was assigned the regimental number 387. He served for 40 years with the unit, and those that succeeded it: 4th Australian Infantry Regiment (1903-1908); 4th Infantry Regiment (1908-1911); 16th Australian Infantry Regiment (1911-1912); 16th Infantry (Newcastle) Battalion (1912-1913); 16th Infantry (Newcastle) Regiment (1913-1914) and 2nd Infantry Regiment (1915-). Holmes rose to the rank of sergeant major. He was awarded the Colonial Auxiliary Forces Long Service Medal in March 1906.

The two settlements related to West Wallsend – Ladysmith and Mafeking – were named after Boer War battles implies a connection perhaps with returning veterans, but this is not clear.

STUDIO GROUP PORTRAIT OF FIFTEEN MEMBERS OF E (WALLSEND) COMPANY

Creator: Unknown from Community Museum Collection.

4th Regiment NSW Volunteer Infantry having won the overall New South Wales Defence Force Rifle Shooting Competition in 1897, the cup on the table being presented by the officers of the regiment. Identified in the third row from the front, third from the left with the sash is 387 Sergeant (Sgt) Samuel Holmes of West Wallsend, NSW.



BOER WAR VETERANS WEST WALLSEND CIRCA 1916

Photo Ref: 24897 Creator: Unknown

Reverend Andrew Robson McVittie - centre front - was minister at St Andrews Presbyterian Church West Wallsend from 1916-1920. During the first world war years he read war news from the daily newspapers every morning to needy residents and Boer War veterans of the town.

That support for such imperial conflicts was not universal at West Wallsend is revealed in an account in 1900 of a street confrontation between a "Britisher" and another variously described as a "labourer leaguer" and a "miner".¹⁵³

A more certain link with defense is the passing of the recruitment march - the Wallabies - through the district in January 1916 when they made camp at Gregory Park (then West Wallsend Park).¹⁵⁴

Membership of E Company of the 4th Regiment of the New South Wales Volunteer Infantry would have given the new recruits useful skills in drill and marksmanship. Surprisingly, their work as coal miners also gave some recruits from this area sort after skills.

The 1st Australian Tunneling Corp, were a battalion of miners and engineers recruited to tunnel silently under the German lines in France and Belgium in 1916.

Among the tunnellers were Walter Fitzgerald Sneddon, who enlisted on 7 July, 1915, and his father, James Brown Sneddon, who joined on 30 October of the same year. Both were experienced coalminers from Wallsend.





KILLINGWORTH BOYS AT NEWCASTLE SHOWGROUND

Photo Ref: 25627
Creator: Unknown

David Gordon McGeachie front row left. Killingworth and West Wallsend volunteers enlisting for World War I. c1915. This photograph is part of the McGeachie family collection. James McGeachie was chief engineer at Killingworth Colliery in the 1890s. His son Duncan was Mine Manager at Killingworth Colliery



PROCESSION, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 4501
Creator: Unknown

This photo is looking North East along Carrington Street circa 1920

WEST WALLSEND WAR MEMORIAL

Date Unknown Creator: Unknown
from Community Museum Collection

The unveiling ceremony took place on 28 January 1922, in front of a large crowd. Several addresses were given by local officials and the memorial was unveiled by Lake Macquarie Shire Councillor J. Johnston (Newcastle Morning Herald, 30 January 1922).



Sapper James Brown Sneddon was killed in action on 7 April, 1917 when German miners blew a camouflet and buried him. Sapper J.B. Sneddon is buried in Railway Dugouts Burial ground (Transport Farm) Zillibeke (Grave 7.K.21).

The mission of the Corp was to detonate a massive store of explosives 30 metres underground and plunge the German troops in the trenches above into chaos. At 3:10am on 7 June, 1917, their work culminated in what was then the largest man-made explosion in history. A series of 19 underground bombs, totalling 450,000 kilograms of high explosive, which had been secretly placed in Allied tunnels under German lines along the Messines ridge in the Ypres area of Belgium, were detonated. The eruption was reportedly felt in London, over 200 kilometres away. An estimated 700 Germans died instantly and thousands more were injured or taken prisoner, shocked and unable to fight.

Sapper Walter F. Sneddon survived the war and returned to Australia in 1919.

The West Wallsend School of Arts and the Holmesville Community Hall were both the sites of many "Welcome Homes" for returning soldiers during the war. Those coming home to West Wallsend were reputedly collected by James Johnston, undertaker, in his Ford.¹⁵⁵

A Drill Hall is mentioned in West Wallsend as early as 1916 and referred to again as in use for military and community purposes right through until the 1940s.¹⁵⁷ However, apart from being on Withers Street, it is not clear where this building was.

In 1922 the West Wallsend War memorial was erected with another Girls' League among others contributing to fundraising.¹⁵⁸

In the 1920s and 1930s West Wallsend formed A Company of the 35th Battalion.¹⁶⁰ During the Second World War a rifle range was established near the cemetery and another closer to Killingworth, as well as a military camp for jungle warfare training near the West Wallsend colliery dam.¹⁶¹

Housing

Both West Wallsend and Holmesville are the result of planned subdivisions, the one from coal company land and the other from private land.

In each case the lots were bought largely by mine worker's families who were then contracted to erect a house on the lot. The general result of this is that most of the oldest homes are simple steep-roofed miners' cottages.

Despite the planned subdivisions many houses seem not to be set to any standard alignment. This may be due to the habit of moving a house (by bullock) when moving jobs. Miners from Minmi, for example, where the house but not the land was owned by them, often moved and in doing so may have set up varying alignments.¹⁶³

Scattered here and there among the potentially movable wooden houses in both communities are more substantial homes in brick constructed presumably by professionals and successful tradesmen, or by such established families as the Fairleys and the Holmes.¹⁶⁶ Additionally, numerous substantial houses in wood were also built in the years after WWI at a time of prosperity.

Service buildings such as hotels and the co-operative store were built on a much grander scale in the late 19th or early 20th century when West Wallsend and district was at its height and the subsequent decline has helped preserve most as there has been little incentive to replace or modernize until recent times. The most obvious exception to this being the West Wallsend Workers Club erected in the late 1950s and extended in the 1960s.

While few service buildings were erected after the mines closed, many later homes were built, also on a modest scale during the inter-war and post-war periods as the population gradually rose again or older homes were replaced. In the 1950s the Housing Commission planned to build over 100 homes in West Wallsend.¹⁶⁷

HOUSE DISASSEMBLED AND MOVED BY BULLOCK TEAM, KILLINGWORTH

Photo Ref: 391
Creator: Unknown

This is possibly the school building which was moved from Barnsley to the outskirts of Holmesville in 1906.



Social institutions

Holmesville in general strove to mirror those of West Wallsend, even if on a smaller scale, rather than participating in any joint institutions.

A special feature of some of these social institutions was the support many began to receive from the Joint Coal Board in the post-war period, just as in the earlier period the coal companies had donated land.

There were significant venues for a variety of activities of a social nature, including fund raising (the first concert was to raise funds for the as yet unbuilt Presbyterian Church). Presland Hall became Sharpe's Hall when the licensee changed and here meetings of the miners of West Wallsend Lodge and the Church of England services were held (though not at the same time).¹⁷¹

Other hotels in West Wallsend also had their associated halls, such as the Museum Hotel – Museum/Johnson's Hall, and the Northumberland Hotel – Federal Hall. Early in the 20th century the Federal Hall was a popular venue for a variety of social gatherings such as a "complimentary concert" given to Mrs J. Riches on her departure as thanks for her "unostentatious assistance in any charitable cause which came before her".

The West Wallsend School of Arts was founded in the late 1890s and its building's foundation stone laid in 1901 with money in part raised by activities held in Presland Hall. The West Wallsend Coal Company under its Manager Duncan McGeachie provided the land for the School of Arts.¹⁷³ Like most Schools of Art the building was used for a variety of purposes such as a library, community meetings, balls, Welcome Homes and fetes. In 1905 for example the Salvation Army held its junior annual at the West Wallsend School of Arts.¹⁷⁴

The School of Arts building was officially opened 12 December 1892. The original building comprised a hall and a library and reading room on the first floor, with a billiard room and offices on the upper storey. There was a large balcony on the upper story from which many official speeches were delivered over the years.

The Masonic Lodge St. Andrew's was founded March 1891. At first meetings were held in the Northumberland Hotel, then the Museum Hotel until a Temple was built in 1909 and extended in 1923. Known as the "butterbox", dances were held there for many years.¹⁷⁵ It ceased operating as a Masonic Hall sometime before 2006 and was purchased privately the following year.¹⁷⁶ Another venue for social gatherings such as dances and meetings was Johnston's Hall, later called the Museum Hall, which was built behind the Museum Hotel. This hall was demolished in the 1960's.¹⁷⁷



MUSEUM HOTEL, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 4499
Creator: Unknown

Museum Hotel, Wilson Street, licensee Mr John Stenhouse, c1920. Joe Hardy holds the horse's head and John Stenhouse, wearing a white shirt stands behind him.

SCHOOL OF ARTS, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 1654
Creator: Unknown



CHILDREN ROLLER SKATING AT HOLMESVILLE HALL AROUND 1912

Photo Ref: 5816
Creator: Price, Mrs Lillian – Sugarloaf District Heritage Group

Third from left is Adelaide Bird, and the pianist is thought to be Mary Sneddon. The tall boy on the right is possibly one of the Shepherd children.





Less well known but actually pre-dating the Masons in their Scottish origins was the Free Gardeners' Lodge. It was a friendly society and so members provided mutual support to themselves and their families and were prominent at the funerals of members where their own service was read.¹⁷⁸ There were many such societies in the West Wallsend/Holmesville area and in 1913 the Free Gardeners' Lodge convened a meeting of all such societies in the community. They met in "Watson's Lodge-room" (Federal Hall) to discuss the issue of members who would build up arrears despite having accessed funds when sick and then joined another society. The meeting proposed that each society form a committee to investigate such cases. In addition to the Free Gardeners, representatives from the G.U.O. Oddfellows, the Independent Order of Oddfellows, Manchester Unity Oddfellows and the Independent Order of Rechabites were present. An 'Oddfellows Hall' was proposed at this meeting and stood at the corner of Wilson and Withers Street.¹⁷⁹

West Wallsend also had its Loyal Orange Lodge (L.O.L. No.156), which in 1906 held its annual ball in the School of Arts. Though the supper was held in the 'lodgeroom'.¹⁸⁰

In the 1930s unemployed men collected their dole money from police located at the School of Arts, which also served as the court house for a time.¹⁸¹ But by 1935 it seems the School of Arts was inactive until it was used in 1946 by the Miners Lodges to establish a Workers Club. This was opened in 1948 at the rear of the School of Arts in part with a loan from the Miners Federation. In 1952 the committee asked the Lake Macquarie Shire Council to take over the building and the Workers Club moved to separate premises in 1954.¹⁸²

The Workers Club in West Wallsend became the major social institution of the community. In 1954 it allowed women to be members and in 1956 women were allowed to run for committee, though it was not until 1995 that the first woman was elected to the committee.

The West Wallsend RSL also had its own hall for a time, and this is now the Scout Hall.¹⁸⁴

West Wallsend High School and Community Museum was set up in 1985 by the school and is rare in being located in the school grounds. The school and students themselves set up the museum and catalogued the collection until the teacher most enthusiastic in supporting this initiative was transferred.

ORANGE LODGE OF WEST WALLSEND, LATE 1800S.

Photo Ref: 5863 Creator: Unknown

Back row, 6th from left, Sam Leggett. The Loyal Orange lodges were the political expression of the evangelical non-conformist Protestant churches. In Newcastle the LOI emerged during the reaction to the attempted assassination of the Duke of Edinburgh by an Irishman at Clontarf Park Sydney in 1868

MASON APRON MU.2021.0071



Leisure

Hotels were built early to provide places to have a drink and socialise after long days in the mines, and venues for dancing, the cinema and other indoor social activities were soon established.

Outdoor activities such as swimming and picnic spots were popular, and coursing, later dog racing (one course was on Fairly Road), fishing and tennis were also popular. A variety of brass bands, several of them highly successful in competitions, also provided leisure activities for many, as did a number of forms of gambling.

In 1887 William Johnston and family moved to West Wallsend and built the Museum Hotel, named for the taxidermy specimens of William Johnston's daughter Margaret.¹⁹¹ By 1888 the West Wallsend Hotel had been added, and by 1897 West Wallsend was reported to have five hotels (adding perhaps the Clyde Inn, Royal and Northumberland Hotels) and these were favoured by the miners as places to "divide their pay".¹⁹² (Miners were sometimes paid in groups and they also required change.¹⁹³)

An application for a sixth hotel license in 1903 was refused and since then only the West Wallsend Hotel seems to have disappeared completely, possibly as early as 1908.¹⁹⁴ The Tattersall's Hotel in Carrington Street is also mentioned as a two-story 14-roomed hotel that was "de-licensed" in 1921.¹⁹⁵ The Royal Hotel was burned down in 2011.

Dances, including square dances, were often held in the School of Arts, and on Friday nights, it was recalled, girls working at the West Wallsend Co-operative Store would finish at 6pm and then rush home to change to go to the School of Arts for the dance.¹⁹⁷

The cinema came early to West Wallsend and by 1906 films were being shown at local halls and in the School of Arts. Soon after, in 1911 and 1912, two theatres had been built, one on the corner of Laidley and Carrington Streets, and another on Carrington Street. The latter was Phelan's Electric Play Theatre, which opened in 1911 as an open air picture show.

CLYDE INN, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 720
Creator: Unknown

The Clyde Inn was the town centre and many excursions started from it. Later it became the terminal bus stop for trips away from the town. The hotel title included a 5-foot wide right of way from the back of the hotel to the West Wallsend No. 1 Colliery site. This encourages miners coming off shift to walk straight up the hill to the Clyde Inn, so by-passing the Museum Hotel.





Pictured

- a. WEST WALLSEND BRASS BAND MASTERS CAP MU.2022.0547
- b. CHILDRENS TOY WOODEN DOLL MU.2022.0320
- c. CHILDRENS TOY SOLDIER MU.2022.0569
- d. WEST WALLSEND BRASS BAND TAPESTRY MU.2022.0584
- e. WEST WALLSEND BRASS BAND DRUM MU.2021.007
- f. WEST WALLSEND BOWLING CLUB BADGE MU.2022.0600
- g. TEDDY BEAR MU.2022.0448

From the earliest period of the history of the communities this included travelling on a Sunday to what was called 'O'Donnelltown'. The O'Donnell's and their five sons were a long-established family occupying a small valley to the west of West Wallsend just beneath the Mount Sugarloaf escarpment. People from Newcastle would take the train or tram to West Wallsend, and then walk to O'Donnelltown where cricket or football, horse and dog races, or bullock riding could be done.²⁰² Later, picnic trips up Mount Sugarloaf itself were also common and there another local family established itself to provide pies and water, as well a telescope to look through for sixpence.²⁰³ In the 1920s, a group known as "The Scrags" would organise excursions to places even further afield.²⁰⁴

Brass bands were popular, and in 1898 W. Barkell formed the West Wallsend Brass Band. They won the Australian Championship from 1904 to 1910, as well as the 8-hour demonstration March in 1904.²⁰⁵ The period of the Great Depression also attracted people to bands, with practice at the Drill Hall on Withers Street. A West Wallsend Junior Band was formed in 1934 and a School Band was formed in 1960.²⁰⁶

A "mutual improvement society" was founded in association with the Presbyterian Church in 1906. It is not known how long this society operated but its first activity was a debate on the subject, "Would a tramway benefit West Wallsend?"²⁰⁷ In 1929 the Holmesville Choral Society was established and made an appearance at various venues and gatherings in both Holmesville and West Wallsend until at least 1933.²⁰⁸

Other forms of leisure involved gambling and included coursing (in which dogs were set on rats); two-up (Three Treys was popular) in various locations and subject to police raids; and dog racing (a bicycle was used to pull the hare), at first at O'Donnelltown and later at Fairley.²⁰⁹



Sport

While the West Wallsend community enjoyed the usual range of sports, of most note is a continuous history of soccer dating from the late 19th century. In fact, the West Wallsend Bluebells Soccer Club is the third oldest such club in Australia.

First formed in 1892 the West Wallsend British Football Club was based on the mainly Scottish miners who had taken up residence in West Wallsend and brought their favourite game with them. Notable in the history of the club has been their playing and beating a visiting Canadian team; the day Canada was played all work ceased on the mines and West Wallsend was deserted.²¹⁰ The team also won the Gardiners Cup in 1921 and 1923. The most notable Bluebells player was Clarrie Coutts, who captained the Australian team.²¹¹ While the Bluebells is the most long lived of the teams, West Wallsend also had other teams at times, such as the West Wallsend Woodpeckers.

As with most land in West Wallsend, the grounds for Johnson Park, the home of the Bluebells, was owned by the West Wallsend Coal Company. The sports ground was purchased in the 1960s with Joint Coal Board money for £350, and a new recreation shed was erected in 1981. The Bluebells ground at West Wallsend was the site of the Annual North vs. South game from 1928 to 1959.²¹²



**WEST WALLSEND SOCCER CLUB,
NSW 1918.**

Photo Ref: 5839
Creator: Unknown

Back, 1-?, 2- Wally McKenzie, 3-?, Middle row, 1-?, 2- Jack Coutts, 3- Dick Sneddon, 4- Angus McKay, 5- Alex Hodge (dark clothes), Bottom, 1-?, 2- Frank Hayes, 3- Tommy Coates, 4- Tommy Sinclair, 5- Billy Smith

**TEAM FROM BLUEBELLS SOCCER CLUB
WEST WALLSEND WITH TROPHY.**

Photograph taken by Ralph Snowball,
1898. Photo Ref: 25523



Pictured

- a. **VIGORO BAT** MU.2022.0591
- b. **BLUEBELLS KEY RING** MU.2022.0583
- c. **LAWN BOWL SET** MU.2022.059



Pryor’s enclosure or grounds was where a variety of sports events seem to have taken place early in the 20th century. Such events included coursing conducted by the West Wallsend Coursing Club (rats supplied by Mr Pryor) and some forms of shooting competitions, including pigeon-shooting (live), competition for £10 trophies, and handicap shooting “under N.S.W. Gun Club’s rules”.²¹³ As Mr Whitfield Pryor was at the time the licensee of the Museum Hotel it is probable that these events took place on or near what is now Johnson Park.²¹⁴

The West Wallsend Co-operative Society sponsored sports as well as dancing contests, in addition to other events. ²¹⁵ Such events often took place in surrounding venues such as at Speers Point near Lake Macquarie. Closer to home West Wallsend Park, at first leased from the coal company and controlled by community trustees, had been established after closing a road that originally ran through the area to provide a local venue for outdoor activities. These included horse racing (or harness racing), and sometimes events that involved special trams to bring people in from as far as Newcastle. Such special events being used to raise money to help upgrade the park itself, as happened in 1911 and again in 1947.²¹⁶ West Wallsend Park was renamed Gregory Park in 1951 after William Robert Gregory an active member of the West Wallsend community.²¹⁷



BICYCLE CLUB OUTSIDE “FISHO JACKS” SHOP CNR SEAHAM ST AND APPLETREE RD HOLMESVILLE

Photo Ref: 5843
 Creator: Price, Mrs Lillian -
 Sugarloaf District Heritage Group

Fisho Jack was John Richardson, a local boat owner and ferryman.

Boxing was another sport popular with miners, such as when Ern Richardson of West Wallsend and Adam Sneddon of Cessnock met in a 20-round match in 1927 at the Federal Hall next to the Northumberland Hotel. The local man won in 13 rounds.²¹⁸

A form of cross-country running that was brought by those from Britain was “harriers”. This involved one group (hares) heading off first to be chased across country by another group (hounds) in a race to a chosen spot. The West Wallsend Presbyterian Harriers held a “paper chase” in 1919 in which they ran from West Wallsend to Seahampton, Ladysmith and Holmesville and then back to West Wallsend Public School.²¹⁹

Cycling clubs existed at both Holmesville and West Wallsend and in 1919 the West Wallsend Amateur Cycle Club held a carnival at West Wallsend Park.²²⁰

Tennis was also popular and some 23 tennis clubs existed in the 1920s, though many of these fell into disrepair during the Great Depression. Tennis revived along with employment and in 1948 the Joint Coal Board donated £855/10 towards the erection of tennis courts in Holmesville.

A bowls club was established in the 1950s and in 1962 the first live television broadcast of a bowls match was of one at West Wallsend.²²¹

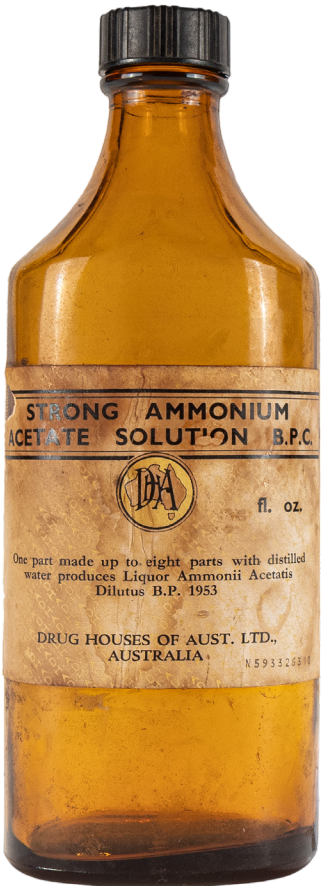
A sport that was popular enough to field a number of teams was vigoro (also vigaro). Vigoro is an Australian sport that combines elements of cricket and baseball and is mainly played by women. It was played at the West Wallsend Public School and a number of teams from West Wallsend and Holmesville played from the 1920s until at least the 1950s.²²⁴



DR HOCKEN'S FIRST SURGERY, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 4503
 Creator: Unknown

*The man with amputated leg
 is Mr Woods, postman.*



AMMONIUM ACETATE MU.2022.0662
 COLES STORES BANDAGE MU.2022.0569



Health

An early doctor at West Wallsend was Dr Hocken, later Dr Renwick, after whom a street was named. These doctors were supplemented by midwives and district nurses.

As early as 1918 a Baby Health Clinic was established on Carrington Street, West Wallsend and another at Barnsley, while from 1926 to 1950 Glen Ayr Private Hospital, owned by Ellen Torrance operated opposite what is now West Wallsend High School and was in a good position to service both West Wallsend and Holmesville.²²⁶ During the Depression one doctor is reported to have worked for free until he could no longer pay his Lodge dues.²²⁷

In 1900 Dr Hocken was one of two doctors in West Wallsend, but it seems by agreement with the West Wallsend Colliery the miners had to go only to Dr Hocken. This was an arrangement resented by the miners and eventually overthrown by a vote.²²⁸

From West Wallsend Colliery:

On the Thursday night of pay-week, each man is given a pay slip with his number, name, and amount owing written on it, which he brings already signed on the following day, and gives in exchange for his money. The pay for each man is counted out beforehand and placed in a tin cup kept on a rack properly numbered. In this way there is no delay when paying a number of men.¹⁰⁰

And from the West Wallsend-Killingworth Colliery:

The number on a miner's token varies with the place where he is working, but the number on his lamp is always the same, and a token is hung up on a peg when his lamp is taken below. In this way the management can ascertain how many and what men are at work, and where they are employed.¹⁰¹

A mine worker himself recalls:

We'd ride our bikes home after work – five or six miles – have tea, perhaps have a couple of pints of beer, and you'd be so tired by seven o'clock, you'd go home and go to bed to be up at five the next morning.¹⁰²

Dr James Preston Hocken 1859-1935 was one of the first doctors in West Wallsend. He first came to West Wallsend around 1891 and was doctor until his retirement. He was on the committee for the School of Arts and a member of the local Masonic Lodge. He is well known for having the first car in the area. Dr Hocken lived in West Wallsend until his death in 1935.

Accidents associated with mining were perhaps the most obvious threat to health for these communities and an account from 1913 conveys some of what this involved:

P. Neilson, a wheeler, met with a painful accident yesterday, while employed at the West Wallsend Colliery. Neilson's horse knocked out two props, and about a cwt. of the roof came away, pinning him underneath. Assistance was soon on the scene, and the dirt removed, and deputy W. J. Barrett rendered first aid. Dr. Hocken attended at the mine, and it was found that the left leg was fractured, a deep gash near the mouth, and the back of the head severely knocked. The injured lad was conveyed to the Wallsend Hospital by the West Wallsend ambulance Wagon.²²⁹

Religion

The West Wallsend/Holmesville communities' religious sects have included not only the usual range of British Protestant groups plus Catholics but also Mormons.

A feature of religion in the communities is that the overall proportions would appear to differ slightly from the average in NSW with Catholics under represented and Presbyterians and Methodists over represented. This could be due to many early residents coming from the Scottish and Welsh mining districts.

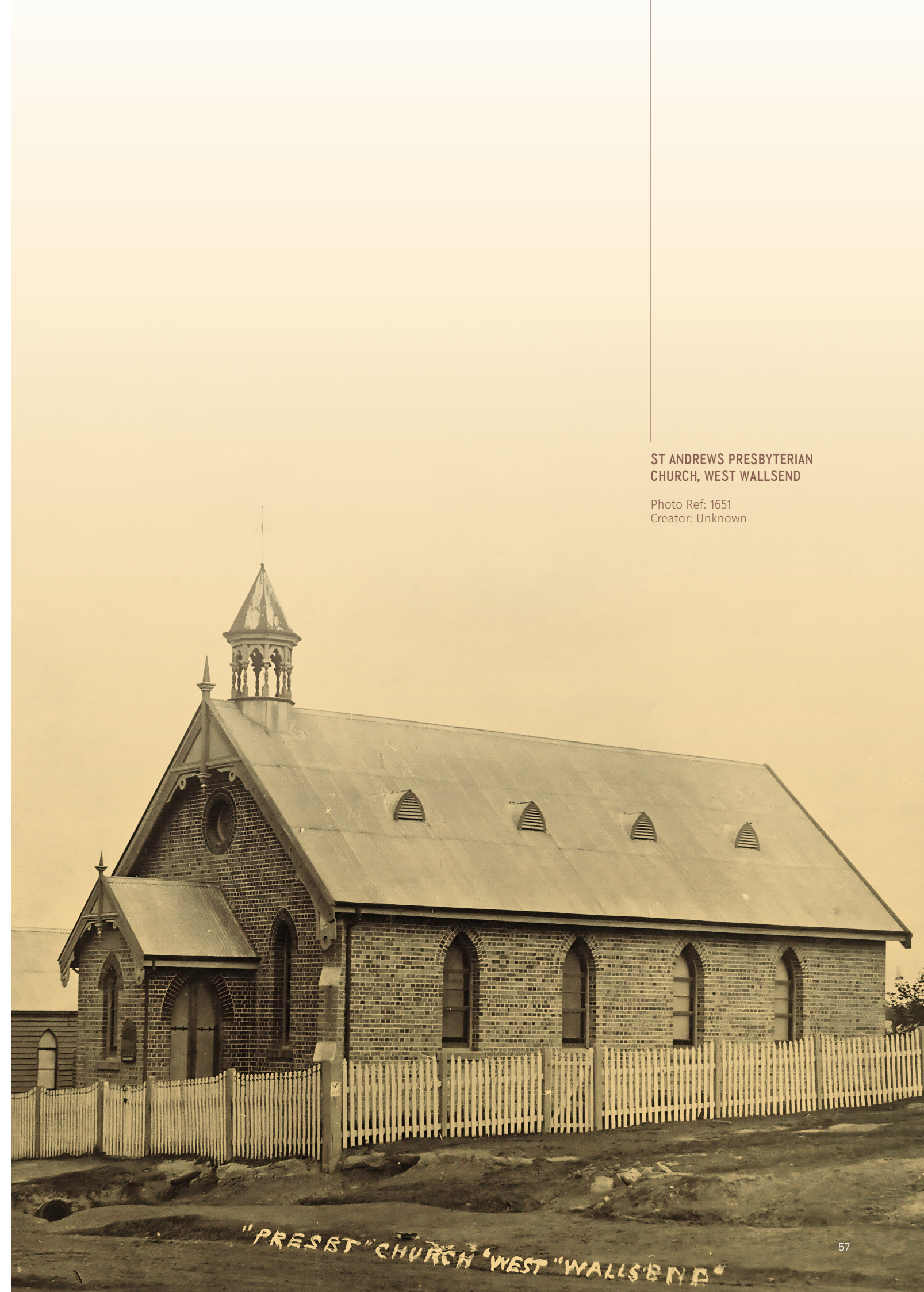
In their original subdivision in 1885 the West Wallsend Coal Company announced that land would be provided for all the denominations. However, no sect appears to have erected anything until the first decade of the 20th century, presumably when the relevant populations had grown, although services and Sunday schools were held in various secular community venues. In 10 years, from 1903, beginning with the Congregational Church and ending with the Salvation Army Hall, seven places of worship were erected in West Wallsend, though only one (Congregational) in Holmesville.

The Presbyterian's seem to have been organised early with a Sunday School regularly held in Presland Hall in 1891.²³⁹ Then on 17th March 1903 the area's first church, the Congregational, was built.²⁴⁰ This was followed within the same year by the West Wallsend Presbyterian Church, whose pulpit and pews came from a Hunter Street church.²⁴¹

The West Wallsend Presbyterian Church was built in 1903 using the alter, pulpit, pews and communion rail from the old St Phillips Church in Hunter Street Newcastle. Reverend Andrew Robson McVittie was minister at St Andrews Presbyterian Church West Wallsend from 1916-1920. During the First World War years he read war news from the daily newspapers every morning to needy residents and Boer War veterans of the town.

ST ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 1651
Creator: Unknown





The following year, 1904, saw the opening of Our Lady of Good Counsel by the Catholic community.²⁴² In 1905 the Congregation Church opened a church in Holmesville, which became the Sugarloaf Community Parish of the Uniting Church in 1977.²⁴³ Also in 1905, St James' Anglican Church was opened near the corner of Laidley and Wallsend Road.²⁴⁴

The original timber building was replaced with a brick one that is now a private residence. In 1906, a Baptist Church was opened, having previously met in the School of Arts, and the Methodist Church in 1910, while the Salvation Army, which had been meeting in West Wallsend since 1898, sometimes in the Jubilee Hall, opened its own hall in Withers Street in 1913.²⁴⁵

The Baptist Church was closed from 1938 to 1941 and in 1989 suffered earthquake damage, which closed it again before it was re-opened in 1991. While still owning the building this congregation now meets elsewhere.²⁴⁸

The Catholic community also had a Convent built in 1912 for the Sisters of St Joseph, who ran the Catholic School in what is now the Church Hall.

BAPTIST CHURCH, 49 WALLACE STREET, WEST WALLSEND

Photo Ref: 25533
Creator: Snowball, Mr Ralph

Welfare

Welfare can take many forms and in communities where most live and work at the same jobs much of it is organised at the community level.

A clear idea of how this kind of welfare operated is seen as early as 1917 when it was announced that:

*A picture show, in aid of Mr. Enoch Brennan, who has been unable to follow his occupation as a miner for the last two and a half years, was given by Mr. E. F. Phelan on Monday evening, under the auspices of the West Wallsend Relief Committee. Mr. W. Ward, on behalf of the relief committee, moved a vote of thanks to Mr. Phelan for assisting in such a needful case, which was carried by acclamation.*²³¹

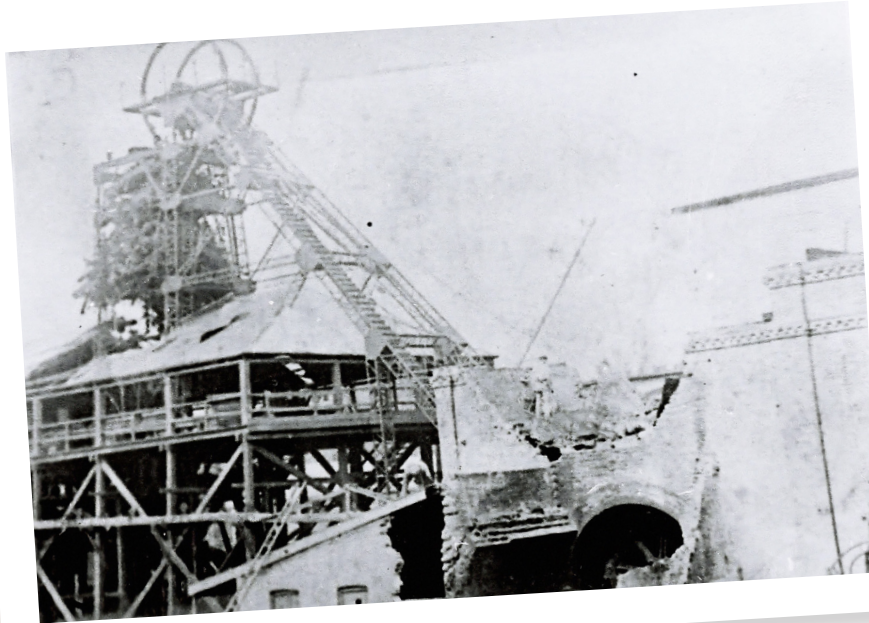
West Wallsend Relief Committee was formed in 1893 and was still operating in 1949. It was a public body that collected donations and administered some government rations for the relief of unemployed workers and their families in the district.²³² In 1930, after the 1929 lockout, this committee declared that it would have to disband as all stores had been depleted.²³³ Nevertheless the committee seems to have continued and during the Great Depression a soup kitchen was set up at West Wallsend School in 1931 and at Barnsley.

A separate building was built for this: "The kitchen was made of saplings and corrugated iron ..." and those at the Catholic School and elderly also received rations. It was necessary that school day distribution was extended to the holidays and ran until 1936.²³⁴

The Friendly Societies were also prominent in providing help and these included the Independent Order of Rechabites – Lily of the Valley Tent, and the Manchester Unity Independent Order of Oddfellows – Pride of West Wallsend Lodge.²³⁵ (See Social Institutions)

The West Wallsend Co-operative Women's Guild gave assistance to the "handicapped" and raised money for such projects as a heart machine at Wallsend Hospital. They did this through subscription, housie and picnics; holding their meetings at the Masonic Hall.²³⁶

During the Depression many received the dole, which included vouchers for spending. The West Wallsend Co-operative Store gave credit for the unspent portions of these vouchers and even produced its own tokens in copper, brass and aluminum.²³⁷



WEST WALLSEND-KILLINGWORTH COLLIERY AFTER EXPLOSION, 7 DECEMBER 1910

Photo Ref: 698
Creator: Hutchinson, Mr James

The West Wallsend-Killingworth Colliery is remembered as one of the most violent mine explosions in the North. Although much damage was done and the surface workings almost totally destroyed, no people were injured in this incident. This was because the mine workings had been shut down for two months. "A strange, loud rumbling, like the muffled roar of a hundred cannons, was heard, and men living in the vicinity of the colliery,... witnessed a sight which they are not likely to forget. From the mouth of the shaft a compact pillar of what appeared to be dense black smoke shot straight ahead into the clear morning sky to a height of over 1000 ft."

Education

The West Wallsend Public School opened in November 1889 with 55 students in a school building erected for £935 on a site purchased from West Wallsend Coal Company for £100. In 1892 it had 153 students and by 1899, 355

A West Wallsend Evening School also operated at the public school from 1891 to 1892, and again from 1905-1911. An application in 1905 for a school at Holmesville was refused and children from there attended either West Wallsend or Barnsley Public School.²⁵⁰

The School houses are: Rhonnda, Seaham, Stockrington and Sugarloaf, which are the names of the local collieries at which most of the students fathers would have worked.

In 1920 the Girls department appointed a "full-time teacher of business principles", and also art and shorthand teachers. The P&C's request that the school become an Intermediate High School at that time was refused. In 1935, classes in agriculture were introduced and in 1937 three acres was purchased for a school farm, but this experiment was discontinued in 1938.²⁵¹

St Josephs Catholic School opened in 1912 with 95 students, and had 110 by 1913/14. This number was down to 50 by 1931 and in 1978 the school closed with the buildings used for a pre-school.²⁵²

The West Wallsend High School opened in January 1964 with an official opening the following year with a staff of 21 and 348 students.

Major Events

For a community so dependent on coal mining many of the major events of West Wallsend revolved around this industry. The founding of the West Wallsend mine itself in 1888 and its closing in 1923 marked major steps in the area's history.

The various strikes, both general and local such as those of 1888, 1913, 1932 and 1949 are also major milestones in community development, surpassed only by the lockout of 1929, which began a period of great hardship for all. For an area so impacted by the Great Depression, the organisation of the unemployed and their own protests and strikes for better relief provisions in the 1930s were also significant events.

Less dramatic but also mine related was the visit by Japanese Naval Officers to the West Wallsend Colliery in 1903.²⁵⁶ While in 1910, an explosion at the West Wallsend-Killingworth Colliery, although it killed no one, closed this mine for four years causing much unemployment and so was an event of significance.²⁵⁷

Outside the strictly mining, the victories of the local West Wallsend soccer team in the Gardiners Cup, such as defeating Granville 3-1 at the Sydney Cricket Ground in 1921 or against Sydney in 1923 at Hamilton, were major events for this community.²⁵⁸ West Wallsend's victory over a visiting Canadian team in 1924, at Hamilton's Tramway Ground, would also have been a major event of the time.²⁵⁹

On a national level the First World War as an event impacted on the communities greatly and is commemorated in the West Wallsend War Memorial erected in 1922. It names 60 men of West Wallsend who died, with 273 in total.²⁶⁰

The absorption of the West Wallsend Co-operative with the Newcastle and Suburban Co-operative Store in 1964 and then its closure in the 1980s marked steps in the process of the self-contained communities becoming part of wider commercial networks.

ENDNOTES

1 The names of some collieries changed over time.

14 *Sydney Gazette*, Tuesday 29 September 1829, p.4.

15 Clouten, *Reid's Mistake*, pp.144-145.

16 *Memorandum of Association of the West Wallsend Coal Company*, 1885, p.31.

17 *Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 16 July 1885, p.2.

18 Parish Map, County of Teralba, 1897 <http://images.maps.nsw.gov.au/pixel.htm#>

19 *Sydney Morning Herald*, Thursday 16 July 1885, p.2.

20 *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Monday 22 August 1887, p.5.21 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Friday 28 April 1893, p. 7.

27 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Monday 10 December 1951, p. 1.

28 BHP acquired some of the surrounding land and then passed it onto the Hunter Development Board. Other parcels are owned by the Hammersmith subsidiary of the Roche Group.

29 Clouten, *Reid's Mistake*, p.262.

30 *Memorandum of Association of the West Wallsend Coal Company*, 1885, p.6-7.

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33 Danvers Power, *Coalfields & Collieries of Australia*, p.261.

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43 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Wednesday 4 July 1888, p.3.

44 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Minrs' Advocate*, Wednesday 3 October 1900, p.3.

45 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Tuesday 16 April 1901, p.3.

46 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Saturday 23 December 1905, p.3.

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50 ABS website – West Wallsend: http://www.censusdata.abs.gov.au/census_services/getproduct/census/2011/quickstat/SSC12479

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53 Price, *Holmesville – One Man's Vision*, p.42.

54 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Saturday 23 December 1905, p.3.

55 Price, *Holmesville – One Man's Vision*, p.44.

56 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Tuesday 13 January 1903, p.7.

57 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Friday 11 March 1904, p.7.

58 *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Wednesday 25 August 1920, p.6.

59 Andrews, *Footprints of Ladysmith*, p.7.

60 *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Friday 3 April 1903, p.7.

61 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Friday 6 September 1907, p.6.

62 *Newcastle Morning Herald & Miners' Advocate*, Saturday 23 December 1950, p.6.

63 Rees, *Our Lady of Good Counsel*, p.5 & Price, *Holmesville*, p.55.

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65 Lake Macquarie City Council, *Lake Macquarie: Past and Present*, p.98.

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113 *Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate*, Tuesday 14 December 1909, p.6.

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129 Hampton, *Retail Co-operatives in the Lower Hunter Valley*, p.30.

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194 Based on a plaque associated with the Royal Hotel to which the licence was transferred.

Information supplied by Lillian Price, West Wallsend District Heritage Group, 30/4/2014.

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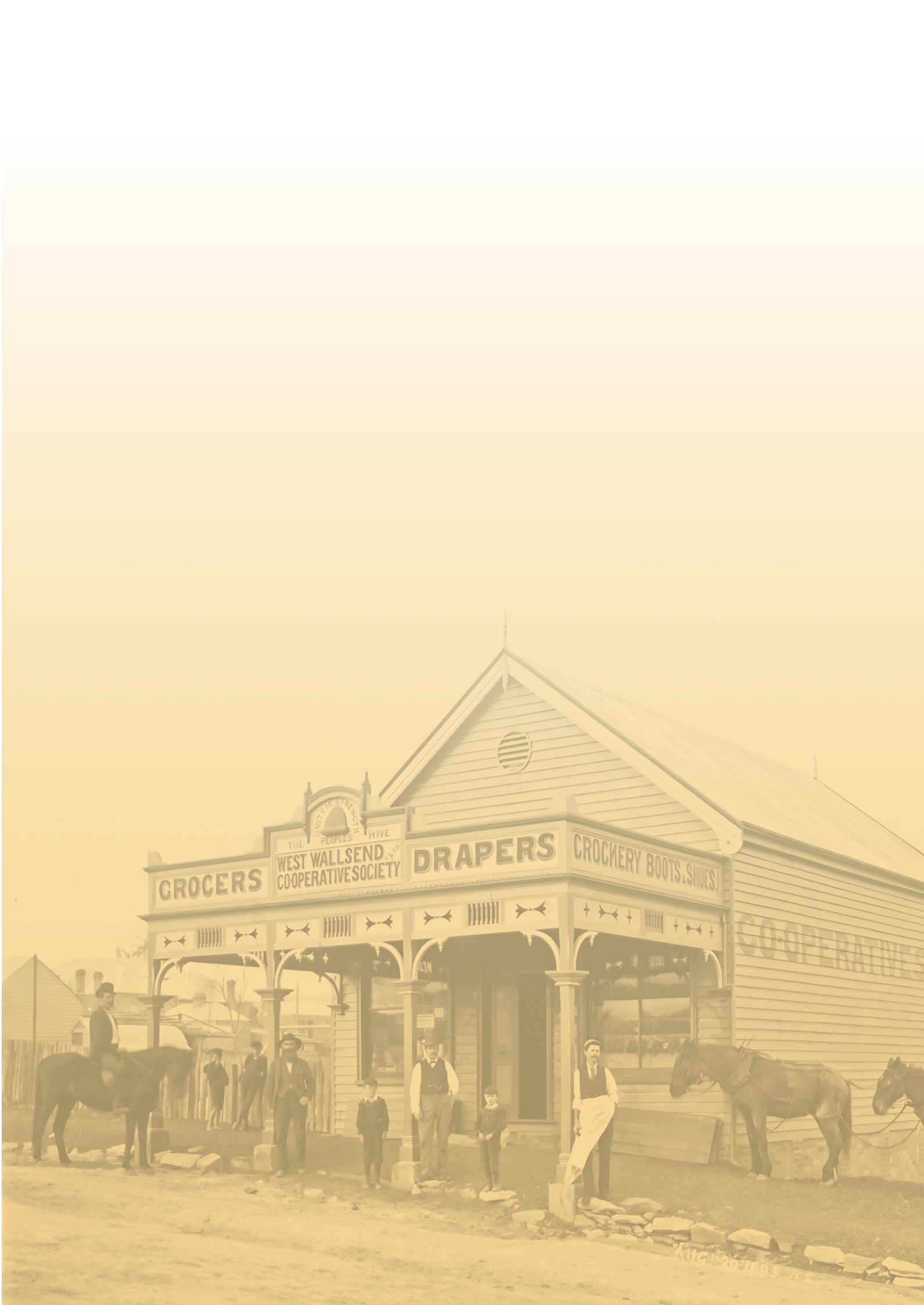
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WEST WALLSEND BLUEBELLS
1899-1901

Photo Ref: 28482
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